Hafa Adai!

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Palacios completes House leaders' lineup. PAGE 2

EPA solicits Environmental Award nominees. PAGE 5

FBI arrests estate administrator

Lawyer also hunted for wire fraud, money laundering charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Luis K. Pelisamen yesterday and is hunting down lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola for wire fraud and money laundering conspiracy charges.

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Arrivals hold steady in December

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Additional flights from Busan and the resumption of Osaka-Saipan flights contributed to an incremental increase in tourist arrivals in December, bumping up the numbers by .59-percent to 36,765, compared to 35,556 during the same period in 2006.

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RARE FISH JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Cecillo Raiukiulipiy, Lino Olopai, Matt Johnson and Carmela show the strange looking fish that they found on a beach fronting Olopai's residence in Chalan Kanoa late Thursday afternoon. The fish was turned over to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for diagnostic yesterday and according to a DFW staff it was the first time this rare kind of species was seen on Saipan.

AP

Explorers Sardar Tenzing Norgay of Nepal, left, and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand who conquered Mount Everest in 1953, are in this 1953 handout photo.

3rd armed robbery in 6 days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two masked men, including one armed with a Taser gun, robbed two tourists at the Suicide Cliff in Marpi Thursday afternoon.

The Suicide Cliff robbery is the third armed robbery to hit Saipan in six days.

The victims—a 35-year-old male and a 31-year-old female, both Koreans—lost their Nike black pouch, a white Arena bag, an undisclosed amount of money, a JVC camcorder, and several camcorder videotapes.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that the woman was hurt in the robbery and was provided medical attention.

Ogumoro said that DPS received a report about an armed robbery at the

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Edmund Hillary, first atop Everest, dies

By RAY LILLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Sir Edmund Hillary, the unassuming beekeeper who conquered Mount Everest to win renown as one of the 20th century's greatest adventurers, died Friday. He was 88.

The gangling New Zealander devoted much of his life to aiding the mountain people of Nepal and took his fame in stride, preferring to be called Ed and considering himself an "ordinary person with ordinary qualities."

Hillary died at Auckland Hospital about 9 a.m. Friday from a heart attack,

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you max out your credit card(s) this past holiday season?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Secure Licenses
Americans born after Dec. 1, 1964, will have to get more secure driver's licenses in the next six years.

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Strong Peso
The Bank of the Philippine Islands sees the peso climbing further to 37-39 against the dollar this year.

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Coping with Alzheimer's
Rukovina is quickly losing her memory—and not because she's 92. She has Alzheimer's disease.

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Local

Palacios completes House leaders' lineup

None of the three former speakers will hold a top position in the 16th House of Representatives.

Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, who is expected to lead the incoming GOP-controlled House, has announced that his vice speaker will be Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

The floor leader will be attorney Joseph James Camacho, who will be serving his first term as a lawmaker.

"That is what has been agreed upon in the caucus. I don't foresee that changing come Monday," Palacios said.

The 16th Legislature will be sworn into office on Monday, Jan.14, 2008. The new set of House members includes three former speakers, Diego T. Benavente, Heinz Hofschneider, and the incumbent Oscar M. Babauta.

"I am looking forward to the inauguration. I think it will be very smooth," Palacios said.

The NMI Republican Party will regain control of the House of Representatives after 12 of its candidates won last election.

The GOP representatives are Palacios, Deleon Guerrero, Camacho, Benavente, Hofschneider, Joseph Reyes, Ralph Torres, Ramon Tebuteb, Stanley T. Torres, Ray Yumul, Edward Salas, and Rosemond Santos.

Completing the 16th House are Oscar Babauta, Raymond Palacios, Francisco Dela Cruz, and Edwin Aldan of the Covenant Party; Justo Quitugua of the Democratic Party, and independents David Apatang, Tina Sablan, and Victor Hocog. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Adult biz given 6 months to comply with new zoning law

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Existing adult businesses have about six months to conform to the building and signage standards established in the newly enacted Saipan zoning law.

Under the zoning act, all adult businesses that existed on Feb. 1, 2008 must comply with building and sign design requirements by Aug. 1, 2008.

Adult businesses include adult cabarets, adult motels, adult motion picture theaters, adult theaters, escort agencies, massage parlors, nude model studios, sex shops, and sexual encounter centers.

The new zoning law bans showing advertisements or promotional materials of sexually related activities and merchandise in areas open to the public.

A building opening, entry and window for an adult business should be located or covered in a way that the public cannot get a view into the interior of the adult business. An entrance to an adult business also should have a notice indicated that minors are prohibited from entering the premises.

An adult business is not allowed to use a loudspeaker or sound equipment to amplify sound beyond the wall of the building.

Furthermore, an off street parking area, walkway, or building entry serving an adult business should be well lit during all business hours.

As for signage, flashing or neon lights are not allowed outside an adult business. The text of primary and secondary signs should always be in English; other languages are optional. The text should not in any way advertise unlawful services or sexual activities.

The new zoning law will go into effect on Feb. 1, 2008. After that, all new development must meet the requirements of the zoning law.

Examples of new developments include the construction and major repair of buildings and signs, new businesses in existing buildings, and subdivision of land.

Businesses that currently do not conform with the new law need to be certified by the Zoning Board that they exist in their location on Feb. 1, 2008. The certification will protect them from penalties under the new law.

Under the zoning act, there are 13 zoning districts: Garapan Core, Garapan East, Beach Road, Industrial, Mixed Commercial, Public Resources, Rural, Village Residential, Village Commercial, Tourist Resort, Agricultural, Adult Business Overlay, and Adult Business Park.

Each zone has a different mix of allowed uses and standards for development. The zoning district boundaries are shown on the Official Saipan Zoning Map.

The law and map can be viewed on the Zoning Board's website at www.zoning.gov.mp.

Copies of the law is available for viewing at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and for purchase at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

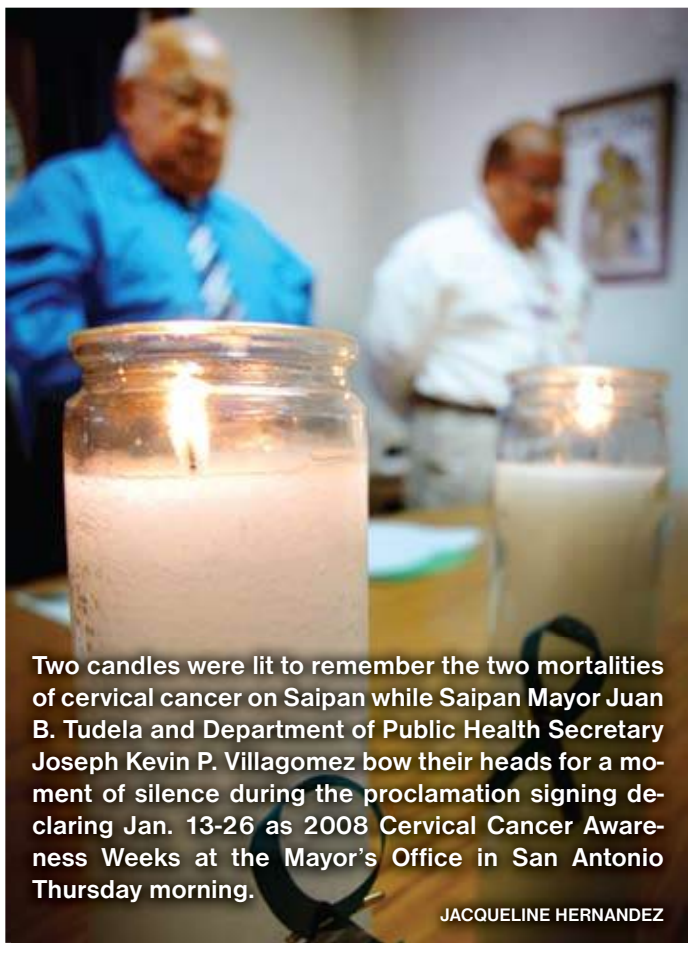
The Program would like to thank the community for it's patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

Cervical cancer among top 5 causes of death

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Two candles were lit to remember the two mortalities of cervical cancer on Saipan while Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez bow their heads for a moment of silence during the proclamation signing declaring Jan. 13-26 as 2008 Cervical Cancer Awareness Weeks at the Mayor's Office in San Antonio Thursday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

According to the Department of Public Health, cancer is the leading cause of death in the CNMI, with cervical cancer among the top 5 leading causes of death.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said that cervical cancer, which ranks third highest in the incidence of cancer in the CNMI, can be prevented through a simple and safe screening test called the Pap Smear, which can find abnormal cells in and around the cervix.

"Find and treating abnormal cells is important. If these cells are not treated, they can become cancer," said Villagomez.

Women 18 years of age and older need to get a pap smear test every year or as recommended by their doctor.

There have been a total of 108 cases of invasive cervical cancer diagnosed in the CNMI since 1992. Of this number, there were 25 deaths since 1993.

The following table shows the number of cervical cancer diagnosed in the CNMI in the last five years alone:

Year	Number of cervical cancer cases
2007	5
2006	3
2005	6
2004	13
2003	3

The Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program receives federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist women with getting screened for breast cancer and cervical cancer. The BCSP program aims to reduce breast cancer and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality rates in the CNMI.

The program provides breast and cervical screening services such as Pap Smears, clinical breast exams, and mammograms to women over 40 years of age.

The services provided are at no cost to women who are 18 years of age and older, are residents of the CNMI, who meet BCSP income guidelines, and have no health insurance or has health insurance that requires a co-payment.

The BCSP income guideline is as follows:

Family Size	Maximum Income
1	$20,000
2	$27,880
3	$35,100
4	$42,320
5	$49,540
6	$56,760
7	$63,980
8	$71,200

For family size more than 8, add $3,610 for each additional member.

One must fill out an program application/enrollment form and must meet the BCSP criteria to get a free exam.

This can be done over the phone by calling 236-8731 or 236-8727, where BCSP staff can enroll a patient over the phone. A BCSP staff will schedule an appointment for the patient. After the testing, the patient is to bring her billing and pap forms to BCSP (door 5 located across from the public health dental unit).

The patient may not need to go to the BCSP office if she is having a mammogram or had her pap done at the Southern Clinic.

Jan. 13-26 is Cervical Cancer Awareness Weeks.

Deputy director for Public Health Administration Lynn Tenorio said that too many young women in the CNMI have died because they did not get their annual pap smear.

This year's theme-"Real Women Do It! Cervical Cancer Screening Saves Lives"-aims to educate all women in the CNMI on the need to undergo regular screening for the disease.

'Govt budget will be top priority of 16th'

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The 2008 government budget will be on top of the priority list of the 16th House of Representatives, says the incoming speaker.

Rep. Arnold I. Palacios said the incoming GOP-dominated House, which he is expected to lead, will continue pushing for passage of a budget for the current fiscal year.

He added that only through an approved budget can the government properly address the needs of the Public School System and other critical areas.

He also said the Marianas Visitors Authority should be given the funding it needs to promote tourism to the Northern Marianas.

Furthermore, funding must be provided to the two additional legislators who will be sworn into office on Monday. House members will increase from 18 to 20 pursuant to the court's redistricting and reapportionment order issued last year.

"All of this unfinished business will be carried over to the 16th House," said Palacios.

Palacios

The 15th House fast-tracked passage of the budget bill last Saturday, in a bid to get it ready for Senate action before the current term expires. But the senators chose to put the matter off until after the Monday inauguration, saying they needed more time to study the appropriation bill.

The House-passed budget appropriates $168.771 million in resources to government operations. This excludes $3.03 million that will go to the Department of Public Lands, whose revenues are separate from the general fund.

The budget prescribes an 18-percent retirement contribution rate for the central government, Public School System, and Northern Marianas College. The 36.7-percent rate determined by the actuarial study will apply to all other agencies.

The governor's other request, the suspension of holiday pay, is left out of the latest version of the budget bill.

The government projects total resources of $174.398 million in FY2008. This includes traditional revenues, as well as resources outside of the General Fund, such as $5.171 million in Compact Impact funding and $3.5 million from previously earmarked funds deemed available for reprogramming.

But only $168.771 million is available for appropriation for government activities. Of the difference, $3.030 million will go to the Department of Public Lands, $1.7 million to tobacco control programs, $2 million to solid waste management systems, and $450,000 to the deportation fund. Bond payments account for the $7.118 million balance.

The FY2008 budget is now over three months overdue. The fiscal year began Oct. 1, 2007 and will run through Sept. 30, 2008.

Live fire training at Farallon

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla for three days—from Jan. 15 o 18—and is warning the public to stay away from the island on these days to ensure their safety.

The training will be held from 12 noon to 7pm and the general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam is strongly advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Advanced diabetic eye care center opens

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Eye Institute held a grand ceremony yesterday for the opening of its new $200,000 Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care, which features the latest technology in eye care.

According to Marianas Eye Care chief executive officer Ross Quinn, the center was built specifically to address the ocular needs of the islands' diabetic population. The CNMI has one of the highest rates for diabetes in the world, third only to Nauru and the Pima Indians.

The expansion project includes the Ocular Coherence Tomography, a breakthrough eye scan technology that provides detailed color CAT-scan like images of the structures of the eye.

OCT helps guide a doctor's evaluation and treatment of a patient's diabetic eye diseases, particularly glaucoma and retinal disease.

According to Marianas Eye Institute owner and ophthalmologist Dr. David Khorram, the OCT is used at least five times a week. "It really is a huge necessity. We wish we can use it less," he said.

The center also features a digital retinal photography and flourscein angiography. Marianas Eye Institute is one of the first two centers in the United States to acquire the specially designed high-resolution digital camera.

"With this camera, we are able to document the level of diabetic eye disease and its response to treatment. Digital photography allows you to instantly see what is happening inside your eye and to better understand your diabetes and our recommendations," Khorram said.

The advanced cataract removal system is another one of the advanced technologies the Marianas Eye Institute implemented. It is one of the world's most sophisticated pieces of surgical equipment for restoring vision. It uses digitally modulated ultrasound to remove cataracts and provides for a gentle procedure with enhanced safety and rapid recovery time.

Another equipment is the biological modulator. It is used to treat diabetic eye disease at a molecular level.

According to John Garland of the Advanced Medical Optics in California, "Dr. Khorram uses the latest extraction techniques

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. David Khorram, MD, chief executive officer Russ Quinn, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez and Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration Lynn Tenorio lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care on Beach Road, Garapan Friday.

that are being used at U.S. mainland facilities. Your patients in the CNMI are truly getting a world-class cataract operation."

Public Health Secretary Kevin Joseph Villagomez said the new center will lessen the need to send people to off-island referrals.

"When we send people off island for eye care, it is really for severe cases. It usually requires us to send that person there in less than a day because of needed surgery that cannot be done here."

But with the installment of the new center for advanced diabetic eye, "that will lessen the need for travel and the need to wait for visiting specialists who are here one week and gone the next," said Khorram.

He added he understands the financial burden that diabetes can bring to individuals and families. "For this reason, we established the Eye Foundation Fund. We want to make sure that you get the care you need, even if you cannot afford to pay for it. It is our commitment to the community."

"What is more important here, I think, is that we are improving the livelihood of the people of the Commonwealth—and we can never put a price to that," said Villagomez.

The two ophthalmologist of the Marianas Eye Institute includes Dr. Mark Robertson, OD and Khorram. Both doctors have received national recognition in eye care.

For more information, visit http://www.marianaseye.com.

EDMUND

From Page 1

said a statement from the Auckland District Health Board. Though ailing in his later years, he remained active.

His life was marked by grand achievements, high adventure, discovery, excitement—but he was especially proud of his decades-long campaign to set up schools and health clinics in Nepal, the homeland of Tenzing Norgay, the mountain guide with whom he stood arm in arm on the summit of Everest on May 29, 1953.

Yet he was humble to the point that he only admitted being the first man atop Everest long after the death of Norgay.

He wrote of the pair's final steps to the top of the world: "Another few weary steps and there was nothing above us but the sky. There was no false cornice, no final pinnacle. We were standing together on the summit. There was enough space for about six people. We had conquered Everest.

"Awe, wonder, humility, pride, exaltation—these surely ought to be the confused emotions of the first men to stand on the highest peak on Earth, after so many others had failed," Hillary noted.

"But my dominant reactions were relief and surprise. Relief because the long grind was over and the unattainable had been attained. And surprise, because it had happened to me, old Ed Hillary, the beekeeper, once the star pupil of the Tuakau District School, but no great shakes at Auckland Grammar (high school) and a no-hoper at university, first to the top of Everest. I just didn't believe it.

He said: "I removed my oxygen mask to take some pictures. It wasn't enough just to get to the top. We had to get back with the evidence. Fifteen minutes later we began the descent."

Then, upon arriving back at base camp, he took an irreverent view: "We knocked the bastard off."

His philosophy of life was simple: "Adventuring can be for the ordinary person with ordinary qualities, such as I regard myself," he said in a 1975 interview after writing his autobiography, "Nothing Venture, Nothing Win."

But Prime Minister Clark, announcing his death, said Hillary was anything but ordinary.

"Sir Ed described himself as an average New Zealander with modest abilities. In reality, he was a colossus. He was an heroic figure who not only 'knocked off' Everest but lived a life of determination, humility, and generosity. ... The legendary mountaineer, adventurer, and philanthropist is the best-known New Zealander ever to have lived."

Close friends described him as having unbounded enthusiasm for both life and adventure.

"We all have dreams—but Ed has dreams, then he's got this incredible drive, and goes ahead and does it," long-time friend Jim Wilson said in 1993.

Hillary summarized it for schoolchildren in 1998, when he said one didn't have to be a genius to do well in life.

"I think it all comes down to motivation. If you really want to do something, you will work hard for it," he said before planting some endangered Himalayan oaks in the school grounds.

Hillary's pace slowed in his final years.

He made his last visit to the Himalayas in April 2007 when he and Elizabeth Hawley—unofficial chronicler of expeditions in the Himalayas for 40 years—met the 2007 SuperSherpas Expedition in Kathmandu.

A year earlier, he joined a flight of New Zealand dignitaries who flew to Antarctica for the 50th anniversary of the Scott Base, which the adventurer helped build in 1957.

Unlike many climbers, Hillary said when he died he had no desire to have his remains left on a mountain. He wanted his ashes scattered on Waitemata Harbor in the northern city of Auckland where he lived his life.

"To be washed gently ashore, maybe on the many pleasant beaches near the place I was born. Then the full circle of my life will be complete," he said.

Funeral arrangement were not immediately announced.

Hillary remains the only non-political person outside Britain honored as a member of the Britain's Order of the Garter, bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II on just 24 knights and ladies living worldwide at any time.

In his 1999 book "View from the Summit," Hillary finally broke his long public silence about whether it was he or Norgay who was the first man to step atop Everest.

"We drew closer together as Tenzing brought in the slack on the rope. I continued cutting a line of steps upwards. Next moment I had moved onto a flattish exposed area of snow with nothing by space in every direction," Hillary wrote.

"Tenzing quickly joined me and we looked round in wonder. To our immense satisfaction we realized with had reached the top of the world."

Before Norgay's death in 1986, Hillary consistently refused to confirm he was first, saying he and the Sherpa had climbed as a team to the top. It was a measure of his personal modesty, and of his commitment to his colleagues.

He later recalled his surprise at the huge international interest in their feat. "I was a bit taken aback to tell you the truth. I was absolutely astonished that everyone should be so interested in us just climbing a mountain."

Hillary never forgot the small mountainous country that propelled him to worldwide fame. He revisited Nepal constantly over the next 54 years.

Without fanfare and without compensation, Hillary spend decades pouring energy and resources from his own fund-raising efforts into Nepal through the Himalayan Trust he founded in 1962.

Known as "burra sahib"—"big man," for his 6 feet 2 inches—by the Nepalese, Hillary funded and helped build hospitals, health clinics, airfields and schools.

He raised funds for higher education for Sherpa families, and helped set up reforestation programs in the impoverished country. About $250,000 a year was raised by the charity for projects in Nepal.

A strong conservationist, he demanded that international mountaineers clean up thousands of tons of discarded oxygen bottles, food containers and other climbing debris that litter an area known as South Col valley, the jump-off point for Everest attempts.

His commitment to Nepal took him back more than 120 times. His adventurer son Peter has described his father's humanitarian work there as "his duty" to those who had helped him.

It was on a visit to Nepal that his first wife, Louise, 43, and 16-year-old daughter Belinda died in a light plane crash March 31, 1975.

Hillary remarried in 1990, to June Mulgrew, former wife of adventurer colleague and close friend Peter Mulgrew, who died in a passenger plane crash in the Antarctic. He is survived by his wife and children Peter and Sarah.

His passport described Hillary as an "author-lecturer," and by age 40 his schedule of lecturing and writing meant he had to give up beekeeping "because I was too busy."

By that time he was touring, lecturing and fund-raising for the Himalayan Trust in the United States and Europe for three months at a time, speaking at more than 100 venues during a tour.

He was known as ready to take risks to achieve his goals, but always had control so that nobody ever died on a Hillary-led expedition.

He was at times controversial. He decried what he considered a lack of "honest-to-God morality" in New Zealand politics in the 1960s, and he refused to backtrack when the prime minister demanded he withdraw the comments. Ordinary New Zealanders applauded his integrity.

He got into hot water over what became known as his "dash to the Pole" in the 1957-58 Antarctic summer season aboard modified farm tractors while part of a joint British-New Zealand expedition.

Hillary disregarded instructions from the Briton leading the expedition and guided his tractor team up the then-untraversed Shelton Glacier, pioneering a new route to the polar plateau and the South Pole.

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

According to the latest data from the Marianas Visitors Arrival, December arrival numbers represent the second straight month that the CNMI recorded growth in its tourist sector. In November 2007, tourist arrivals increased by 2.12 percent.

Across MVA's key markets, Japanese arrivals continued to slow down but, at just 13 percent (17,137 from 19,789), was more palatable than the 41 percent and 21 percent declines posted in October and November 2007 respectively.

"We look forward to the opportunity for growth out of Japan with resumption of the Osaka flight," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

"The resumption of the Osaka-Saipan flight by Northwest Airlines began on Dec. 21, which allows the opportunity to fill 182 seats to the CNMI daily. There was also charter service that came into the CNMI out of Japan at the end of the month," he said.

Korean arrivals, meanwhile, continue to surge, rising from 8,102 in December 2006 to 11,617 in December 2007, an increase of 43 percent

"Korean arrivals continue to show double-digit growth month after month. The recently launched Busan flight in addition to the daily service out of Seoul, Korea on Asiana Airlines, combined with the strong marketing efforts in Korea are proving effective as we see the numbers growing monthly," said Tenorio.

The biggest mover, however, was MVA's Russian market which recorded a whopping 156-percent increase in December 2007.

Arrivals from the former Soviet Union increased to 654 in December 2007 compared to 252 in the same time period last year.

According to MVA, two charter flights arrived at the end of December with guests staying in the CNMI for an average of 12 days. The length of stay by the Russian tourists and their spending habits while on our islands make them very attractive to the CNMI.

"Although we still have fewer seats coming out of Japan than we did, the resumption of the Osaka flight does allow us the opportunity to increase our Japan arrivals as we head into calendar year 2008. We remain enthusiastic about our Korean arrivals and were also excited to welcome so many Russian guests to our islands during December," said Tenorio.

3RD ARMED

From Page 1

Suicide Cliff Thursday at 4:02pm.

Preliminary investigation showed that while the victims were sightseeing, two masked male individuals approached them and demanded that they hand over their belongings.

When the woman refused to hand over her purse, one of the suspects stunned her on the forearm with a Taser gun—a high-voltage stun gun—forcing her to let go of her purse. The robbers then demanded that the male victim hand over his belongings, which he did.

Before leaving the scene, the suspects slashed the front left tire of the victims' vehicle with a sharp object and sped off aboard a beige car.

One of the suspects was described as wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a red-white striped mask. The second suspect was described as wearing a black shirt and a mask similar to the other suspect.

On Tuesday afternoon, a 65-year-old woman was injured when three unidentified men, including one armed with a Taser gun, robbed her inside her house in Fina Sisu.

On Saturday, two masked men robbed the Ling Lin Store in Chalan Kanoa. One suspect was armed with a machete.

On Dec. 14, 2007, two men also robbed two Korean tourists at Suicide Cliff. One suspect was armed with a Taser gun.

The following day, three men robbed Kang-Da Market in As Lito. One suspect was also armed with a Taser gun.

FBI

From Page 1

The U.S. government indicted Pelisamen and Arriola on charges of stealing $625,575 from the Rita Kaipat estate's account.

Pelisamen and Arriola were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, money laundering conspiracy, and two counts of money laundering.

During yesterday's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson imposed no bail "at this time" for Pelisamen.

Arraignment was set for Monday at 9am.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told *Saipan Tribune* that the FBI has not arrested Arriola yet because he could not be located. O'Malley, however, said they already have good leads on Arriola's whereabouts.

Pelisamen used to be the administrator of the Kaipat estate. Arriola served as Pelisamen's counsel in that probate. The Superior Court kicked out both Pelisamen and Arriola from the estate after finding that some money in the estate were missing.

Pelisamen, the court-appointed administrator for the estates of Rita Kaipat (Kaipat estate), and Vicenta Kaipat had hired Arriola on Sept. 27, 2005, to serve as counsel to the administrator.

Pursuant to the Superior Court's order, Pelisamen had already received $161,500 in compensation as complete payment for his services as administrator.

By the Superior Court's order, the administrator of the Kaipat estate was required to obtain authorization from the court before withdrawing any money from the Kaipat estate account.

The indictment stated that over the next several months, Arriola and Pelisamen worked together to take money from the Kaipat estate account.

The defendants allegedly transferred funds belonging to the Kaipat estate from the Bank of Guam to the Bank of Hawaii on Nov. 28, 2005, thereby causing communications by wire between Saipan and Honolulu, Hawaii.

From Nov. 30, 2005 and continuing through May 10, 2006, the defendants allegedly improperly drafted 66 checks from the Kaipat estate.

During the course of the scheme, the defendants allegedly drafted checks totaling $219,000 drawn against the Kaipat estate and made payable to Arriola, who either received cash, or deposited some or all of each check into a personal bank account.

The defendants also allegedly drafted checks totaling $386,500, drawn against the Kaipat estate account and made payable to Pelisamen or to his wife, Maria Estrella Dela Cruz Pelisamen.

Such checks, the indictment said, were either cashed, or in one instance, deposited into an account belonging to Mrs. Pelisamen.

On Dec. 15, 2005, the defendants allegedly drafted a check in the amount of $10,000 drawn against the Kaipat estate account, to be used as a down payment for the purchase of a 2005 Nissan Frontier by Pelisamen. On Dec. 20, 2005, the defendants again drafted a second check for $10,075 drawn against the Kaipat estate account, as further payment for the vehicle.

On Nov. 28, 2005, the two allegedly made a special clearing in a cashier check in the amount of $1.38 million that required electronic communications between CNMI and Hawaii.

In October 2007, police arrested Pelisamen for allegedly engaging in a sponsorship scheme in which many alien workers whose entry permits are nearing expiration were recruited for a fee. The case is pending in the Superior Court.

EPA solicits Environmental Award nominees

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging citizens in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands to nominate a friend, peer or organization for this year's U.S. EPA Environmental Awards program.

Nominations can be submitted online beginning Jan. 14 and ending Feb. 17.

The program, now in its 10th year, seeks to recognize individuals and groups outside of the U.S. EPA who made significant contributions to improve the environment in the year 2007.

Past winners of the award in the CNMI includes the Beautify CNMI! coalition (2007), recycling company Basula Produkto (2006), and *Saipan Tribune* environment reporter John Ravelo (2002).

Anyone can be nominated, such as scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, young people, organizations, business representatives, public officials and others committed to protecting public health and preserving the natural surroundings.

ON THE NET

Online nomination form at www.epa.gov/region09/awards

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- promotion of innovative ideas, techniques, and/or technologies
- ability to address an environmental problem or need
- accomplishment of stated goals
- ability of the program/activity to be replicated or widely shared
- collaboration with others
- clarity and effectiveness of the presentation
- long term benefits for the environment

The deadline to submit nomination forms online is Feb. 17, 2008. An EPA panel will review all of the applications and select this year's finalists, who will be notified by mid-March. Winners will then be recognized at a ceremony to be held in San Francisco mid-April.

For more information, and to submit a nomination form online beginning Jan. 14, visit: http://www.epa.gov/region09/awards. For questions regarding the program, call the Environmental Information Center at (866) EPA-WEST or Wendy Chavez at (415) 947-4248. ***(EPA)***

Six Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on six sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said samples collected from DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach Drainage, Sugar Dock, and CK District #2 Drainage on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

Students invited to join poetry competition

Junior high and high school from around the Commonwealth have been invited to participate in the Fifth Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition to be held in February.

The annual event, sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities, honors the late Valentine Sengebau, a long-time Palauan resident of the Commonwealth and well-known poet.

According to Council executive director Paz C. Younis, schools from Saipan, Tinian and Rota have been asked to select two poets each to compete in a junior division (7th-8th grades) and senior division (9th-12th grades).

Poems addressing themes of culture, identity and change in the islands may be written in a variety of styles including rhymed or free verse, sonnet or ode, up to a maximum length of 250 words. Entries must be received by the Council on or before 4pm on Feb. 22.

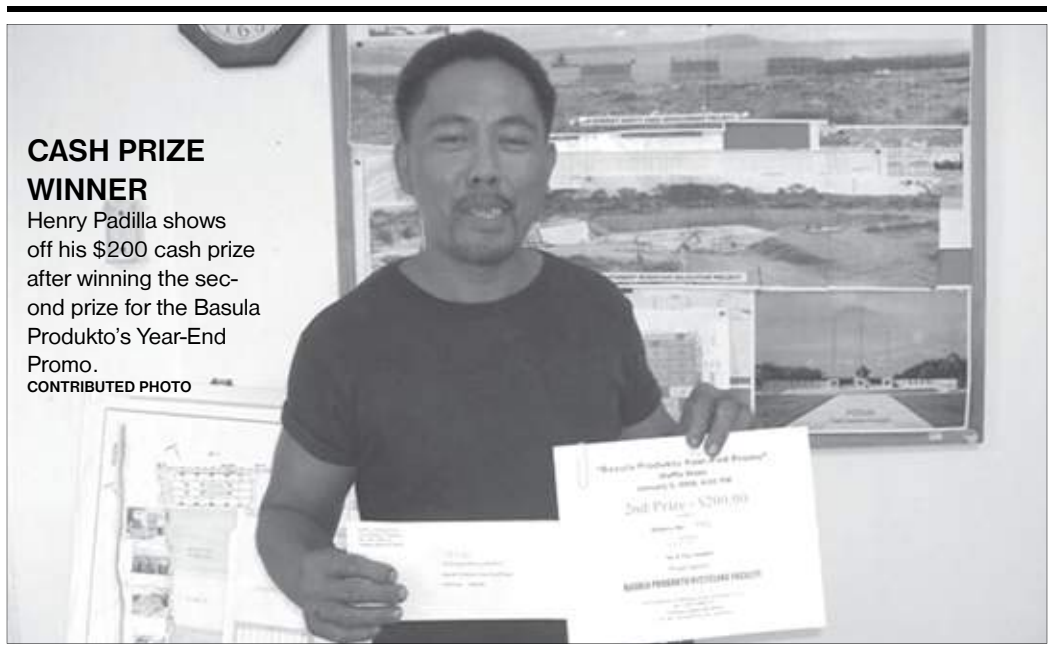
Contestants will recite their poems at a final event at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park, beginning at 6:30pm on Feb. 28. Poets will be judged on two criteria: content and recital quality.

First place finishers in both divisions will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies that will be kept by the winning schools until next year's competition.

The top three finishers in each division will also receive cash prizes and certificates. Honorable mentions will receive certificates.

Last year's winners included Alicia Yen of Marianas Baptist in the Junior Division and Mt. Carmel's Ryan Ortizo who took the top spot in the Senior Division.

Interested schools are invited to contact the Humanities Council at 235-4785 for additional information regarding this event. ***(PR)***



CASH PRIZE WINNER

Henry Padilla shows off his $200 cash prize after winning the second prize for the Basula Produkto's Year-End Promo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROOKIE LAWMAKERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in "The Law and the Freshman Legislator Seminar" held Jan. 10, 2008, have their picture taken with Judiciary officials. Standing from left, Rep. Joseph N. Camacho, Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, Judge Mona Manglona, Judge Ken Govendo, Judge David Wiseman, Justice John Manglona, and Justice Alexandro C. Castro. Sitting: Rep. Edward T. Salas, Rep. Raymond D. Palacios, Rep. Christina M. Sablan, Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, Historical Society Trustee Theresa Kim, LRC Director Naomi Lujan-Gonzales, and Rep. Ralph Dlg. Torres.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC ITB 08-003

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **CONSTRUCTION OF SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GRANDSTAND**, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, January 14, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, check, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour every six (6) months until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $7.50 per hour.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday, January 23, 2008**, at the proposed project site located near the Ada Gym in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, January 24, 2008.

Bid must be submitted in an original and three (3) copies to the office of the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, January 30, 2008**. Any bid received after the above date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances, unless submitted by a bidder outside the Commonwealth and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than local time, January 30, 2008 **AND** must be received no later than February 8, 2008. In order to receive this additional time, bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director, Procurement and Supply in writing not later than 10:00 a.m., January 30, 2008, of their intention to submit a bid. Notice can be by e-mail to procurement@pticom.com or by fax to (670) 664-1515. If the Director, Procurement and Supply receives bidders' intention to bid outside the Commonwealth, then bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 8:00 a.m. local time, February 11, 2008. **However, if no intents to bid are received, bid will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m., January 30, 2008.**

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

Voices of experience

It is Hillary Rodham Clinton's misfortune to have spent a long and honorable career building up the experience that would qualify her to be a serious candidate for president of the United States—only to come to the apex of that career just as the nation decided that experience isn't everything. She squeaked out a victory on Tuesday, but across the wintry plains of Iowa and the unseasonably mild hills of New Hampshire, large numbers of voters in the past five days have affirmed that they are looking forward, not back, and thus swarming to Barack Obama's thoughtful, eloquent expression of hope and away from Clinton's call of experience and readiness.

With two strong showings in two white states where Clinton once led by large margins, Obama has decisively rebutted questions about his electability. It was Clinton who challenged voters to consider whether her Democratic rival is ready to serve, who suggested that a vote for Obama was a gamble. To her chagrin, many voters in Iowa and New Hampshire were thrilled to take that risk. And yet, she rebounded with vigor, and demonstrated enough appeal to make a run to Feb. 5, when this race likely will be decided.

Some of the same dynamics are at work among Republicans. Suddenly Mitt Romney, a second-generation politician, looks far less appealing than the flinty independence of John McCain. There, the politics of change are murkier, complicated by McCain's enduring popularity in New Hampshire, Mike Huckabee's popularity with Christian conservatives and Romney's inability to convince voters that he is a man of genuine conviction. Still, for Republicans as well as Democrats, it's a tough year to be a candidate whose principal credential is experience. Indeed, for Republicans it's a tough year to stand for anything, as the GOP remains in search of a standard-bearer.

Clinton's fade from front-runner to mere contender is not the result of her brief and dignified display of emotion on the campaign trail Monday. To the contrary, that episode may have helped spark her late turnaround, especially among women, for despite a shamefully sexist attempt to turn her remarks at a New Hampshire coffee shop into doubts about her fitness to serve, Clinton's comments revealed the passion she has for her country and the depth of her political beliefs. "I just don't want to see us fall backwards," she said, her voice tight. "This is very personal for me." She will be a stronger candidate going forward if she continues to express herself in such personal terms.

For Clinton, the trouble is not emotion but, perversely, President Bush. So badly has this president performed that he has discredited not just his own administration but the very idea of Washington knowledge. Voters frustrated by the war in Iraq and anxious about the economy have turned on the man who brought us those troubles and on experience itself—and thus on Clinton. She still has time, but now she must confront an electorate that has its doubts—and that has identified Obama with the future and Clinton with the past.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

CSI:
PAKISTAN
IT'S OBVIOUS BHUTTO DIED FROM BUMPING HER HEAD ON the SUNROOF...
GOV'T
I THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL SCOTLAND YARD.
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Democracy: The global aura is gone

By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Albright, the former U.S. Secretary of State, is the author of Memo To The President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership.

The United States' founding proposition—that men and women should have the right to govern themselves—will face critical tests in 2008, not only during our own country's marathon presidential campaign but in venues across the globe. It will be the responsibility of our leaders, both current and prospective, to take a firm stand in support of democratic principles.

In 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, it appeared that the global debate had been settled in freedom's favor, yet almost two decades later, the struggle to define and defend self-government still rages on every continent. Indeed, a real danger exists that the world will again be split by competing ideologies, not communist versus capitalist but democratic versus autocratic.

For a time, democracy enjoyed an aura of inevitability. No longer. In China, neither the emergence of free enterprise nor the information revolution has loosened communist control, though party chiefs have been forced to respond to popular discontent over such issues as corruption and worker safety. Leaders in Beijing now have democratic debates and votes within the party, but still prohibit non-communists from forming parties of their own. Across the border in Russia, Vladimir Putin has transformed his country's nascent democracy into a personal empire. Leaders in both countries largely ignore external criticism; in fact, they often cast it as "meddling" by the West and turn it to their rhetorical advantage.

These troubling developments are amplified by events elsewhere. An increasing number of foreign leaders now insist that the West does not understand their societies and has no right to object when they manipulate their constitutions or silence political opponents. Many officials in Africa, where Chinese investments are on the rise, find the Beijing model of economic reform without political change more congenial than free elections. In some cases, such as Nigeria and Kenya last year, elections were held but the processes were deeply flawed. In Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf has stressed the need for national unity while riding roughshod over constitutional procedures, thereby exacerbating national divisions. The tragic assassination of Benazir Bhutto shows that repression does not prevent violence but instead causes it to build.

Arab democracy, meanwhile, has shifted out of first gear and back into neutral. The Bush administration's grandiose plan for the democratic transformation of the Middle East has been shredded by the venomous politics of Iraq, the electoral gains of Hamas, the popularity of Hezbollah and the growing fear of Iran. President Bush no longer pressures Arab dictators to reform; instead, he calls them moderates and urges them to unite against extremist groups that are, awkwardly, both implicated in terrorism and proficient at competing in elections.

In parts of Latin America, democratic consolidation has been threatened by a new generation of "caudillo"-style leader, adept at pleasing crowds via economic populism while determined to eviscerate competing centers of power. Though narrowly rebuffed by Venezuelan voters in a recent referendum, Hugo Chavez still appears to equate his right to the presidency with the matrimonial vow: until death do us part. At the same time, an older generation clings precariously to life in Cuba, where the prospect of a post-Fidel Castro government is both raising tensions and inspiring hope.

The policy dilemma for the United States has two parts.

First, our ability to promote democracy successfully depends on the credibility and appeal of our example. It is hard to persuade others to follow our lead when White House officials disregard democratic rules and make excuses for torture.

Second, throughout 2008, American voters will be preoccupied with the presidential election, while President Bush will be preoccupied with his legacy. Neither will be focused on democratic progress overseas, even at a moment when the cement may be hardening on a new global split between democratic and undemocratic forces. As a result, our next president may confront a world in which self-government has been supplanted by top-down government in key countries. Twenty years after the Cold War ended, we may see Putin—not the likes of Havel, Walesa or Mandela—pointing the way to the future.

I am 70 years old, without stars in my eyes. I understand that no system of government, not even democracy, guarantees prosperity or peace. Our leaders must weigh a variety of factors when deciding which governments to support. Unfortunately, it is sometimes necessary to make alliances of convenience with countries that do not share our values. Democracy itself is not an event but a painstaking process that must evolve over time through the creation of institutions and changing habits of thought.

These reservations aside, the principle endures. The United States is not China. Without a passion for democratic government, we have no valid claim to the attention of foreign populations. If America is lukewarm or transparently hypocritical in its support for democracy, we will cause irreparable damage to our long-term interests. The more democracy is challenged, the more its champions must insist on its validity as the best system of government humans have devised. And if America does not lead that roster of champions, who will?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Young voters' new thinking

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center.

Even the dimmest media bulbs have noticed that there's something a little different about this year's crop of Democratic presidential candidates. Hillary Clinton, who won the New Hampshire primary, appears to have an extra X chromosome. Meanwhile, Barack Obama, who won the Iowa caucuses, has been blessed with some extra melanin in his skin, which also makes him stand out from the usual crowd of middle-aged, white-guy candidate-clones.

The media just can't stop gushing and clucking and gasping about it all. Oh, my gosh, Hillary Clinton is female! Barack Obama is, uh, black! Will American voters accept a female candidate? A black candidate? Are voters more sexist or more racist? What's a bigger problem in America today, sexism or racism?

Snore.

These questions are tedious and inane. Simplistic efforts to evaluate whether racism or sexism is "worse" are inherently meaningless. Racism and sexism operate in complex and different ways. We should reflect on the ways in which racism and sexism have marred our history and cast shadows over our future, but let's not turn it into a parlor game about who's got it worse, women or blacks.

Increasingly, the media obsession with whether Americans will be less likely to vote for a black man or for a woman is also beside the point—because to an emerging generation of younger voters, the very terms in which the questions have been framed no longer make much sense.

Start with race. In the context of the 2008 election, the question, "Would you vote for a black man for president?" takes for granted certain assumptions: that there is a clearly defined category we can label "black men," that Obama fits into that category and that belonging to that category matters.

For Americans over 40, these may seem like perfectly justified assumptions. Of course there's a category properly labeled "black men." Of course Obama fits into that category—he's got that extra melanin, right? Which makes him black, which matters, because "black maleness" triggers a set of associations that affect how people think about him.

But increasingly, there's evidence that younger Americans just don't think about race in the same simplistic ways. They're more likely than older Americans to be minorities themselves, for one thing. In 2006, only 19.8 percent of Americans over 60 were minorities, compared with about 40 percent of Americans under the age of 40. And younger minorities come from a far wider range of racial and ethnic backgrounds than their older counterparts. Once, "minority" largely meant "black," which in turn meant "descendant of the Africans brought to the U.S. as slaves." Some of today's young minorities fit that profile, but others are descended from Filipino farmers, Chinese schoolteachers, Iranian engineers, Mexican construction workers, Congolese doctors or Haitian shopkeepers.

The tapestry gets even richer. The number of inter-marriages has gone up dramatically over the last few decades, and as a consequence, so has the number of multiracial young Americans, who—like Obama—are neither this nor that, but a bit of this and bit of that, with a healthy dollop of something else. And regardless of their own status, younger Americans are more likely than older Americans to have dated inter-racially, to have close friends of other races and to live in families with relatives from other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

As a result, race literally isn't a black-and-white issue for many younger Americans. Questions like "Would you vote for a black man?" just don't compute because they assume a reality that's ceasing to exist, in which the term "black" has a fixed meaning, in which Obama's rich heritage can be reduced to a single word.

Younger Americans tend to think differently about gender. Generation Y—those born after 1977—is dramatically more accepting of non-traditional gender roles than older generations; a recent survey found, for example, that 63 percent "completely disagree" that women should "return to traditional roles" in society. These younger Americans are also far more comfortable with homosexuality, which makes them less likely to assume that women who behave in less "traditional" ways must "really" be lesbians—and if they are, Gen Y-ers wonder, who cares?

Americans under 30 grew up in a world in which women are CEOs and secretaries of State, and in which women make up the majority of U.S. college students. And, as with race, most younger Americans can't see what the big deal is. Of course a woman can be president. Of course being tough—or getting a little teary-eyed—on the campaign trail doesn't make you more or less feminine, or more or less suited to power.

For younger voters, "Do you think a woman or a black man could be a good president?" is the wrong question. As women and men increasingly work side by side and share power, as the U.S. becomes a more complex, multiracial and multiethnic nation, younger voters may increasingly be asking themselves a very different question: Can a middle-aged white guy possibly be qualified to lead us into the future?

The man who won't go away

By RUTH MARCUS
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Marcus is a member of The Washington Post*'s editorial page staff.*

MANCHESTER, N.H.—Standing alone in the fluorescent-lit shabbiness of American Legion Post 29, ringed by an audience of veterans sitting on metal folding chairs, John McCain was arguing that he was still relevant.

"I can win in New Hampshire as I did in 2000," McCain asserted. Hardly anyone in the room believed him.

It was a Saturday morning in July, and McCain's foundering campaign was so strapped for cash that his Straight Talk Express bus had been dropped for a less expensive vehicle to get his dwindling entourage to Claremont, on the western edge of the state.

I didn't end up writing about McCain that weekend, which turned out to be a lucky thing. I had planned (but was diverted by a more pressing topic) to compare McCain's candidacy with that of Hillary Clinton, who, accompanied by her husband, was making a triumphal return that weekend. I would have sagely explained why one supposedly inevitable candidate had seemingly tanked while the other was ascendant, noting Clinton's relentless discipline—on money, on message—and McCain's more freewheeling ways.

In retrospect, I would have looked awfully foolish, given McCain's decisive win in the New Hampshire primary.

On Monday I asked McCain about that painful weekend. The senator was once again comfortably ensconced on his campaign bus, once again ringed by reporters clamoring for the chance to experience McCain unscripted, holding forth on everything from Roger Clemens to Douglas MacArthur to the changing demographics of South Carolina.

"Grand times, weren't they?" McCain said. "Thanks for reminding me."

McCain's improbable resurrection is attributable to one chief factor outside his control—the weakness of the rest of the Republican field—but also to factors for which he can claim credit. In the wake of the McCain-backed surge, the situation in Iraq has improved, lessening voter anger at the war—and at him. McCain is a happier and more compelling campaigner in the role of the scrappy insurgent, not the careful candidate of the establishment. His is a high-wire campaign act—this is a candidate who enjoys, even craves, the interaction of town hall meetings, the more challenging the question, the better.

In a year when voters seem to be rejecting the manufactured, poll-tested candidate (e.g., Mitt Romney) in favor of the authentic and risk-taking (e.g., Mike Huckabee), I wonder whether Clinton would have done better had she descended from the Olympian heights of carefully guarded front-runnerhood to expose herself more, to voters and to reporters. For all the talk about whether a female candidate can get away with tearing up, I thought the glimpse of vulnerable Hillary was her affecting, and effective, moment of the campaign.

On this day before the primary, McCain was chafing at the campaign schedule, which has him whizzing from rally to rally, and eyeing a laptop screen showing the latest poll results as if he thought they might evaporate before his eyes.

"There's no new polls today?" he asked an aide—almost as if he wanted another hit of reassurance that the evidence of his resurgence was real.

McCain's route to the nomination is still far from certain. Mitt Romney remains a factor in Michigan, Huckabee and even Fred Thompson in South Carolina, where McCain retains a solid political base from the 2000 campaign but also faces voters more agitated about his immigration stand. But the money that had once disappeared is pouring in, and, although McCain qualified to receive federal matching funds, he hasn't taken any and will not therefore be hobbled by spending limits down the road.

If it comes to that, a McCain-Obama matchup would make for compelling drama. The oldest (save Ron Paul) candidate in the race would be up against the youngest, and the contrast would favor Obama over the man who likes to describe himself as "older than dirt," with "more scars than Frankenstein."

McCain-Obama would unfold the change-vs.-experience debate—this time in the long form of a general election campaign, not the warp speed of the primaries. McCain argued on the bus Monday that he, too, can claim the change mantle. "People recognize that I represent change from business as usual in Washington," he said.

Yet McCain's fundamental message contains eerily Clintonian echoes. He is the candidate, McCain argues, with "the experience and the knowledge and the judgment" to deal with the "transcendent threat" of Islamic terrorism. The longer span and harder edge of the general election debate might tilt the advantage here to McCain.

Either way, there is one thing I learned at the American Legion in Claremont six long months ago. Standing in a corner of the room was Orson Swindle, McCain's fellow prisoner of war, who had come to cheer on his beleaguered buddy. "John's had six or eight near-death experiences in life, and he's still here," Swindle said. "He's not going away."

Letters to the Editor

'Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work'

As we begin this year in government, first of all I extend my congratulations to our newly elected leaders and members in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

As leaders of our great Commonwealth, our people expect much of you that you will perform your very best in these difficult economic times. The people expect you to solve problems. Challenge yourself to think and solve problems. Let's seek and love ideas because ideas make a difference. Let's study how our laws work and how best to improve them.

Let's prepare a laundry list of what our problems are that affect our people and draw up a plan or strategy as to how to go about to solve the problems. Issues should be debated. Differences of opinions, right or wrong, good or bad, about certain issues should be respected. That's healthy and that's the proper way to carve out the appropriate response to a certain issue. Diversified viewpoints including constructive criticisms should be welcomed.

So let's roll up or sleeves and get to work. Set aside partisan politics and let's concentrate on those issues or problems our people, here and far, need the most help.

To this end, let us all join hands and work together with our Honorable Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial and the present administration. Despite the criticisms we all have about the administration, we must realize that none of us is perfect. Let's face it, we all make mistakes here and there. *Tayaha giya hita buson* San Jose.

Again, congratulations! May God bless each of you.

Juan S. Demapan
Former Senate president

Send them home

Dear American citizens of the CNMI:

I lived on Saipan and in Micronesia for nearly 10 years. I also lived in Costa Rica, Panama and Palau. I was a not a citizen of those countries and did not expect nor did I have the rights of citizens. The CNMI's contract workers do not work under this basic assumption. They want more than they could ever get back home or what they agreed to when they came here freely. Contract workers will not stop with "federalization." Look at Hawaii—the natives have no real power and have been pushed out. If you don't send them home now they will rule the CNMI in a short time. Bite the bullet and send them back to the country they came from or else expect to be second-class citizens in your own homeland.

William "Bamboo" McCue
Wellington, FL

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲83° ▼74°

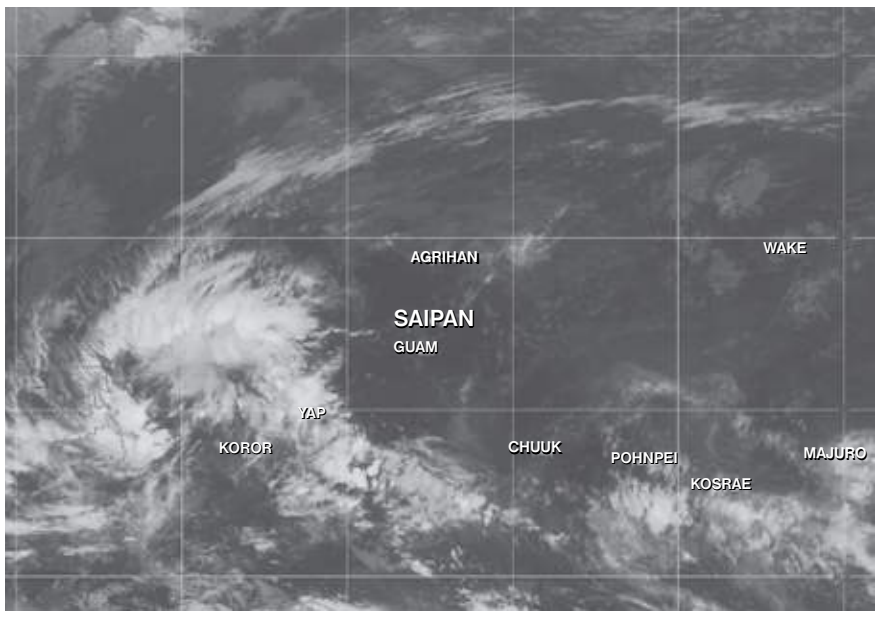
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71	▼58
Beijing	Cloudy	▲28	▼17
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼66
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲78	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼50
Manila	Rain	▲81	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲79	▼62
Miami	Cloudy	▲82	▼67
New York	Partly Sunny	▲49	▼38
Osaka	Rain	▲46	▼30
Paris	Cloudy	▲44	▼40
Pusan	Showers	▲47	▼35
Rome	Showers	▲54	▼44
Salem	Showers	▲47	▼33
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲58	▼43
Seoul	Cloudy	▲37	▼23
Tokyo	Rain	▲59	▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches from 5n130e to a circulation south of Palau near 5N133E to EQ146E. low-level convergence associated with the trough and circualtion combined with upper-level divergence is generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 3N149E to 15N130E. This area covers Palau and portions of Yap state. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei and across Kosrae and extreme southern portions of the Marshall Islands between 2N and 6N from 154E to 173E. Scattered showers are also found within 100 miles of a line that stretched from 6N172E to 9N174E, which is just east of Majuro. A shear line snakes across the western Pacific from 25N164E to 18N145E. Cloudiness, patchy light rain and embedded shower activity are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:01AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:58AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
04:49PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
09:36PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:04PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:04PM
Monday	6:46AM	6:05PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:06PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:06PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:23AM	9:25PM
Sunday	10:01AM	10:18PM
Monday	10:39AM	11:11PM
Tuesday	11:19AM	12:41AM*
Wednesday	12:01PM	1:05AM*

*Following Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 12, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Thursday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon
English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 12, 1999

Local labor pool urged

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday prodded the business community to start developing a local labor pool to lessen CNMI's dependence on foreign workers amid plans of the Legislature to lift the indefinite freeze on hiring of guest employees. Although the governor underscored the need to employ foreign workers in the Northern Marianas for certain categories, he said the private sector should train local residents to take on the jobs that will be left by alien workers. "I think it's about time that we train our own people," Tenorio said in an interview, "I would like to see the business community started training our local people and take care of some of the jobs."

Support for scrapping of $100K deposit builds

Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday expressed support on the easing of a cash deposit requirement imposed on foreign investments, adding to growing clamor for a legislation to amend the stringent law in light of the current economic slump. He also shrugged off fear that the removal of the $100,000 security bond may encourage businessmen to set up what he called "shadow investments" and violate CNMI laws. "We need to see this proposed bill move forward, it's beginning to hound us," Reyes said in an interview, referring to House Bill 11-131 which is pending at the Senate.

JANUARY 12, 2000

Coalition prevails in House

As expected, the new coalition of Republicans, Democrats and Independents took control of the House of Representatives during the highly-charged inaugural session yesterday packed with hundreds of families, relatives, friends and supporters of the 18-seat chamber. The coalition, comprising 10 members led by former Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, elected the political veteran to a new two-year term to the House's top post, along with Rota Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola as Vice Speaker and Rep. Oscar M. Babauta as Majority Floor Leader. Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider's bid for speakership ended in crushing defeat with just eight votes from fellow GOP partymates, so was Representatives Diego T. Benavente's nomination as vice speaker and Jesus T. Attao's aim for the third ranking position in the lower house.

Fitial outlines economic agenda

Newly elected House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial laid down four major policies he likened to the four pillars of the traditional taga stone during his speech yesterday at the inaugural session of the 12th Legislature. Under the new coalition he formed with Republicans, Democrats and Independents at the House of Representatives, he vowed to pursue better economic opportunities for the CNMI people, educational investments, environmental protection and preservation of island way of life. He also pledged to work with "friends" in Washington sympathetic to the conditions in the Commonwealth to ensure that the island government keeps control of local immigration, minimum wage and custom standards.

JANUARY 12, 2001

Scam perpetrators act as remittance center

Perpetrators of a savings scam who ran away with thousands of dollars gypped from Chinese garment factory workers were able to get the trust of their victims after hiding behind a remittance license obtained from the Department of Commerce. Winfield Corporation obtained its license to do remittance job middle of last year and started accepting transactions exclusively from Chinese workers in the third quarter of 2000, records from the commerce department disclosed. Based on the report submitted by Winfield Corporation to the Banking and Insurance Division, remittance transactions entered into the company by Chinese workers reached $346,505 in the third quarter of last year.

Teno to attend Bush's inauguration

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will be one among the thousands of U.S. officials, foreign dignitaries and other invited guests witnessing the swearing in of President-elect George W. Bush next week in Washington D.C. He is scheduled to depart for the nation's capital on January 17 to attend the inaugural ceremonies next Saturday. The governor, who has received an invitation, did not say who will accompany him to the trip, although a delegation from CNMI is expected to travel with him. It is unlikely, however, to arrange a meeting with Mr. Bush or any of his Cabinet officials, Mr. Tenorio acknowledged, since they expect him and the others to be busy during this time.

Business

Retailers had weak sales in December

NEW YORK (AP)—If anyone is looking for signs that we may be headed into a recession, look no further than the dismal December sales results turned in by the nation's retailers.

Many merchants who reported sales figures Thursday failed to meet already lowered sales projections, making this the weakest holiday season since 2002. Their performance led a string of stores to reduce earnings outlooks for the fourth quarter.

The weak results crossed all retail categories. Particularly hard hit were apparel sellers including Limited Brands Inc. and AnnTaylor Stores Corp., as well as department stores including Macy's Inc. Among the few bright spots were low-price operators like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which posted results that exceeded Wall Street expectations, as it benefited from shoppers trading down to cheaper stores amid higher gas prices and a slumping housing market.

"Overall, the holiday season was dismal," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMetrics LLC, a research company in Swampscott, Mass. "Consumers are definitely feeling the pain."

Such sluggish holiday results are expected to force retailers to cut inventory, reduce store personnel and shutter stores.

"We are in a period of atonement," said John Morris, Wachovia Capital Markets LLC. "Retailers are going to try a cleaner way of living. They are going to be on the defense." That strategy contrasts with the mood of the last few years, when stores experimented with different store concepts to try to fuel sales growth.

A number of chains including Macy's and Target Corp. saw their sales depressed in December in part by a quirk in the calendar, which pushed the post-Thanksgiving shopping week into November rather than December. Analysts say it is best to look at the combined November-December figures to get a better picture.

Still, it was clear the slowing economy made shoppers frugal during the holiday shopping season.

Oil prices fall on worries

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures fell Thursday on growing concerns that a U.S. economic slowdown is imminent and will depress demand.

An Energy Information Administration report that demand for crude oil and petroleum products fell last week for the third week in a row contributed to the price declines.

"Without U.S. demand and without stronger economic growth, crude oil can't stay in the $90s," said James Cordier, president of Liberty Trading Group in Tampa, Fla.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery fell $1.96 to settle at $93.71 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after dipping as low as $93.30 earlier.

Many analysts believe the weakening dollar helped draw speculative investors into oil markets this fall and winter, driving oil prices above $100 a barrel last week.

At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices fell 0.4 cent Thursday to a national average of $3.10 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Gas prices have bobbed around the $3 mark in recent weeks, following crude prices higher or lower. If crude prices continue falling, as many analysts now expect, gas prices will likely retreat below $3 a gallon before rebounding as usual in the spring.

Stocks rise after shaky start

NEW YORK (AP)—A volatile Wall Street advanced Thursday for the second day in a row, as investors found renewed confidence in a report that Bank of America Corp. is close to buying struggling mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp.

After seesawing earlier in the day, the Dow Jones industrials finished up nearly 120 points on the afternoon report from The Wall Street Journal. The stock market has been buffeted by concerns about fallout from the mortgage and credit crisis. Countrywide's problems with delinquent and defaulting loans have sent stocks falling even in recent days.

"For the last month, rumors are that Countrywide was going into bankruptcy," said Ryan Larson, senior trader at Voyageur Asset Management. "Any deal with Bank of America is good news, and the market is looking for even a hint of good news these days."

Credit concerns were one reason the market waffled in earlier trading, with investors trying to reconcile comments on the economy from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Kansas City Fed President Thomas Hoenig.

Stocks jumped after Bernanke said the Fed was ready to lower interest rates again to ward off a recession: "We stand ready to take substantive additional action as needed to support growth and to provide adequate insurance against downside risks," Bernanke said.

Nation

New rules for driver's licenses

By DEVLIN BARRETT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans born after Dec. 1, 1964, will have to get more secure driver's licenses in the next six years under ambitious post-9/11 security rules to be unveiled Friday by federal officials.

The Homeland Security Department has spent years crafting the final regulations for the REAL ID Act, a law designed to make it harder for terrorists, illegal immigrants and con artists to get government-issued identification. The effort once envisioned to take effect in 2008 has been pushed back in the hopes of winning over skeptical state officials.

Even with more time, more federal help and technical advances, REAL ID still faces stiff opposition from civil liberties groups.

To address some of those concerns, the government now plans to phase in a secure ID initiative that Congress passed into law in 2005. Now, DHS plans a key deadline in 2011—when federal authorities hope all states will be in compliance—and then further measures to be enacted three years later, according to congressional staffers who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because an announcement had not yet been made. DHS officials briefed legislative aides on the details late Thursday.

Without discussing details, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff promoted the final rules for REAL ID during a meeting Thursday with an advisory council.

"We worked very closely with the states in terms of developing a plan that I think will be inexpensive, reasonable to implement and produce the results," he said. "This is a win-win. As long as people use driver's licenses to identify themselves for whatever reason there's no reason for those licenses to be easily counterfeited or tampered with."

AP

Truck driver Marcos Miranda is the victim of identity theft. He is shown at a service station along I-10 in El Paso, Texas, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007. As the government develops more sophisticated electronic employment verification systems, undocumented workers are assuming real names and Social Security numbers of U.S. citizens like Miranda to thwart detection at workplaces, to get driver's licenses and to obtain credit.

In order to make the plan more appealing to cost-conscious states, federal authorities drastically reduced the expected cost from $14.6 billion to $3.9 billion, a 73 percent decline, according to Homeland Security officials familiar with the plan.

The American Civil Liberties Union has fiercely objected to the effort, particularly the sharing of personal data among government agencies. The DHS and other officials say the only way to make sure an ID is safe is to check it against secure government data; critics like the ACLU say that creates a system that is more likely to be infiltrated and have its personal data pilfered.

In its written objection to the law, the ACLU claims REAL ID amounts to the "first-ever national identity card system," which "would irreparably damage the fabric of American life."

The Sept. 11 attacks were the main motivation for the changes.

The hijacker-pilot who flew into the Pentagon, Hani Hanjour, had a total of four driver's licenses and ID cards from three states. The DHS, which was created in response to the attacks, has created a slogan for REAL ID: "One driver, one license."

By 2014, anyone seeking to board an airplane or enter a federal building would have to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, with the notable exception of those more than 50 years old, Homeland Security officials said.

The over-50 exemption was created to give states more time to get everyone new licenses, and officials say the risk of someone in that age group being a terrorist, illegal immigrant or con artist is much less. By 2017, even those over 50 must have a REAL ID-compliant card to board a plane.

Among other details of the REAL ID plan:

■ The traditional driver's license photograph would be taken at the beginning of the application instead of the end so that should someone be rejected for failure to prove identity and citizenship, the applicant's photo would be kept on file and checked in the future if that person attempted to con the system again.

■ The cards will have three layers of security measures but will not contain microchips as some had expected. States will be able to choose from a menu which security measures they will put in their cards.

ELECTION ROUNDUP

Clinton promises new economic plan

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday Congress should take action to revive the economy and contain a mortgage crisis that she called an epidemic.

The New York senator, seeking a caucus victory here Jan. 19, was revealing details of her economic plan Friday. After her unexpected triumph Tuesday in New Hampshire's primary, Clinton visited Las Vegas neighborhoods and led a discussion of the mortgage crisis. For November, Nevada reported one foreclosure filing for every 152 households, the highest rate in the nation for the 11th month in a row.

"We've got to do something about that," Clinton told people who had come to a Mexican restaurant to talk about the economy.

She told reporters she would urge Congress to pass an economic stimulus package. She did not immediately disclose details.

"I'm going to do everything I can to promote what I think would be the best way to stimulate the economy," said Clinton, who previously has called for a 90-day freeze on foreclosures. "I'm going now to talk about the mortgage crisis in very real and personal terms. ... This is an epidemic. It's contagious."

GOP rivals back tax, spending cuts in SC

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Republican presidential rivals backed a blend of tax and spending cuts Thursday night to head off an election-year recession they generally agreed is avoidable. "We should reduce taxes on middle-income Americans immediately," former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said in a debate in the run-up to presidential primaries in Michigan and South Carolina, two states where unemployment exceeds the national average.

"The first thing is not to raise taxes," said former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. "Cut the marginal tax rate, if anything, and eventually go to a fair tax," he added, referring to his plan for a national sales tax to replace the income tax.

Arizona Sen. John McCain stressed spending cuts to get the budget deficit under control, although he also said it was important not to let Bush administration-era tax cuts expire. He pledged to "wield the veto pen" and block all pork barrel spending bills that Congress sends him.

While the debate was held in South Carolina, the Michigan primary is next on the campaign calendar, a contest in which Romney, Huckabee and McCain are the principal antagonists. It's unlikely all of them can survive a defeat there, particularly a third-place finish.

South Carolina's primary is scheduled for Jan. 19, and drawn a different group of competitors.

ACROSS THE NATION

No big bang: Asteroid will miss Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The possibility of a collision between Mars and an approaching asteroid has been effectively ruled out, according to scientists watching the space rock. Tracking measurements of asteroid 2007 WD5 taken from four observatories have greatly reduced uncertainties about its Jan. 30 close approach to Mars so that the odds of impact have dropped to 1 in 10,000, the Near-Earth Object Program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a posting on its Web site Thursday. Scientists said the best estimate was for the asteroid to pass at a distance of more than 16,000 miles from the surface of Mars, or at worst, no closer than 2,480 miles. The asteroid was discovered in November.

Hinn, Hilliard resign ORU regents posts

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Two televangelists have resigned their posts as regents at Oral Roberts University, as the debt-ridden school tries to regroup following a spending scandal involving its former president. The university on Thursday also settled with one of three professors who filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the school. Benny Hinn and I.V. Hilliard resigned as regents, where they were involved in making major school decisions, university spokesman Jeremy Burton said Thursday. Burton declined to say why the two resigned, but said both wrote the board to express their support for the school's mission. The resignations come a month after the resignations from the board of regents of two other televangelists, Jesse Duplantis and Creflo Dollar.

Man kills 2, jumps from bridge to death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man fatally stabbed his girlfriend and her mother during an argument, then drove to a bridge and jumped to his death Thursday before a police officer could stop him, police said. After the stabbing, police locked down a nearby elementary school, fearing the man may try to come for his 6-year-old son. Police took the boy off campus, police Lt. Ted Matthews said. The man was identified as Walter Garcia, 38, Los Angeles police Detective Pat Barron said. The women were identified as Damaris Quiles, 35, and her mother, Carmen Quiles, 73.

3 indicted in Vegas bus stop shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two teenagers have been indicted on charges including attempted murder in a shooting at a school bus stop that wounded six people. Dresden Michael Williams, 18, and Franklin Jackson, 17, were indicted Wednesday and are scheduled for arraignment next week in Clark County District Court. No pleas have been entered, but Williams' lawyer Kalani Hoo and Jackson's lawyer Joel Mann said their clients intend to plead not guilty in the Dec. 11 shooting. Williams and Jackson are each charged with conspiracy to commit murder, seven counts of attempted murder with a deadly weapon and six counts of battery with a deadly weapon.

Father now denies he dropped 4 off bridge

BAYOU LA BATRE, Ala. (AP)—A man accused of tossing his four young children off a coastal bridge to their deaths denies killing them and says police harassed him into making a false confession, his attorney said Thursday.

Authorities say Lam Luong confessed to killing the children, ranging in age from a few months to 3 years, a day after reporting them missing and claiming a woman had taken them.

But Luong's appointed attorney, Joe Kulakowski, said his client told him he falsely confessed under pressure after being questioned Monday night and the entire day Tuesday.

"When police yelled, 'We know you killed them,' he at some point realized they weren't going to believe him," Kulakowski said.

"We don't have any bodies. There's a lot of emotion and nobody knows the facts right now," he added.

Based in part on a witness's account, investigators said the four children were thrown from the highest part of the two-lane Dauphin Island bridge Monday morning, a point about 80 feet above the Intracoastal Waterway. Luong had had an argument with his wife earlier, authorities said.

Crews searching near the bridge and into the Gulf of Mexico have found no sign of the children. State and local teams were to continue searching Friday, but the Coast Guard announced Thursday that it was pulling out.

Prosecutors have charged Luong with four counts of capital murder, and he was ordered held without bond Thursday in Mobile.

Asia

Suicide bombing kills 24 in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected Islamic militant walked into a crowd of police guarding a courthouse and blew himself up Thursday, killing 24 others and wounding dozens in the first major attack in Pakistan since the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

The blast at Lahore High Court, minutes before a planned anti-government rally by lawyers, was a bloody reminder of the security threats facing this key U.S. ally ahead of Feb. 18 parliamentary elections.

Echoing an extremist tactic in Iraq, suicide attacks have become as commonplace in Pakistan as in neighboring Afghanistan, adding to rising pressures on President Pervez Musharraf as he struggles to stay in office eight years after seizing power in military coup.

At least 20 suicide bombers have struck the past three months in attacks that killed 400 people, many of them from the security forces—the most intense period of terror strikes here since Pakistan allied with the U.S. in its war against al-Qaida and other extremist groups in 2001.

Police said the attacker got into the midst of some 70 officers in riot gear and detonated explosives on his body, spewing shrapnel in a blast that sprawled mangled bodies in pools of blood. All but three of the dead were police officers.

A horse lay dead, still harnessed to a cart. An abandoned motorcycle was toppled in the street a few yards away. Police boots, riot shields and helmets littered the ground.

"There was a huge bang," said Munrian Bibi, 60, a school cleaner caught in the blast as she headed home from work. "I saw people falling on ground crying for help. I don't know what saved my life from that hell," she said in a hospital where she was treated for leg wounds.

There was no claim of responsibility. The government has blamed previous attacks on Islamic radicals allied with al-Qaida and the Taliban who are intent on expanding their reach from strongholds in Pakistan's lawless tribal region along the Afghan border.

Sri Lankan clashes kill 26 rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's military said it jets bombed and destroyed a Tamil rebel sea base in the country's embattled north Friday, while clashes elsewhere killed 26 of the insurgents.

Air force fighter jets pounded the Tamil Tiger rebel base in the Nayaru area of rebel-controlled Mullaithivu district and pilots later confirmed they hit the target, a defense official said on condition of anonymity, citing government rules.

He said no details were available yet on casualties from the airstrike.

Meanwhile, soldiers pushed into rebel territory in the Parappaankandal area of the northern district of Mannar and destroyed four rebel bunkers early Thursday, killing 10 guerrillas, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Separate clashes over the past two days across northern Vavuniya, Mannar and northeastern Weli-oya regions killed 16 additional rebels and wounded eight government soldiers, he said.

Scholars debate biography of Thai king

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—An American journalist whose critical book on Thailand's king is banned took the limelight at an international academic conference Thursday even though the author didn't appear in person.

One participant read out a paper written by journalist Paul Handley and others debated the accuracy and relevance of his "The King Never Smiles," while taking swipes at the tough stance of censors when dealing with perhaps the most sensitive issue in Thailand - the role of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

In tracing the life of the 80-year-old monarch, Handley alleges that Bhumibol has proved a major stumbling block to the progress of democracy in Thailand as he consolidated royal power over a long reign.

This view is shared by some Thai academics, but the king remains greatly revered by the majority of the population, in part because of a lifetime of effort to alleviate the plight of the have-nots.

"This book raises in a dramatic way some of the most important matters concerning the past, the present and the future of the kingdom," said Annette Hamilton, an anthropologist who has worked in Thailand for more than two decades.

While questioning some of his sources, noting inaccuracies and even questioning his conclusions, both Thai and foreign participants at the 10th International Conference on Thai Studies credit Handley with stimulating debate on the issue within the country.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan girds to pass anti-terror bill

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's upper house of parliament rejected a bill Friday to revive a naval mission to support U.S.-led forces in the Indian Ocean, but the ruling party was expected to push the measure into law in the lower chamber. Parliament's upper house, controlled by a resurgent opposition, voted to reject legislation that would revive a limited version of Japan's six-year-long mission to provide fuel and other resources to U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan. But the powerful lower house, which is controlled by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's ruling coalition, was expected to overrule the vote later in the day with a two-thirds majority.

Teenage Boy Scout a hero in the Maldives

MALE, Maldives (AP)—For the Boy Scout who dreams of becoming a policeman, grabbing the knife of a would-be assassin lunging for the president of the Maldives was a crash course in cop-like heroics. That the attacker may have been an Islamic extremist is only adding to the tale of the 15-year-old's bravery, even as it threatens the Maldives' reputation as a peaceful tropical paradise for well-heeled foreigners. "The Scouts saying is 'Be prepared'," Mohammed Jaisham Ibrahim told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday. "I was prepared." The lanky teenager smiles as he says it, two days since the attack turned him into a big deal in this small country of nearly 1,200 islands that stretch south from India.

Suharto kept alive by machines, still conscious

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto was conscious but being kept alive by machines and breathing with difficulty Thursday, doctors said, a week after he was hospitalized in critical condition. Fluids were building up in the 86-year-old's lungs, but there were no immediate plans to put him on a respirator and no signs of pneumonia, said Marjo Subiandono, the chief presidential doctor. Suharto's blood pressure and hemoglobin levels had returned to normal, but his kidneys were still failing, Subiandono said.

World

AP

In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, hostage Consuelo Gonzalez, left, speaks with Colombian Senator Piedad Cordoba, second from left, as hostage Clara Rojas, right, speaks with an unidentified person as they are both released from the rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in an unknown location in southern Colombia, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008.

2 hostages freed by Colombian rebels

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Helicopters sent by Venezuela's president picked up two hostages freed by Colombian rebels in the jungle Thursday and flew the women across the border in a mission that could open a new path to freedom for dozens of captives.

Beaming in a forest clearing after six years in captivity, the women kissed the cheeks of heavily armed rebels, who then disappeared in a single-file column into the brush. The women, thin but apparently in good health, were flown to Caracas, where they were embraced by tearful relatives on the tarmac.

"We are being reborn!" Clara Rojas exclaimed.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez greeted them with hugs and kisses at the presidential palace. The women and their families stood alongside him and sang Colombia's national anthem while a military band played. They made no public comments when they left in a car and a van.

Rojas was an aide to Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt in February 2002 when the two were kidnapped on the campaign trail. She gave birth in captivity to a boy fathered by one of the guerrillas. Betancourt is still being held.

The other freed hostage, former congresswoman Consuelo Gonzalez, had been abducted in September 2001. During her captivity, her husband died and a grandchild—now 2—was born to one of her daughters. After getting off the plane, she embraced the child, and Chavez later held the girl in his arms.

Bush offers peacemaking checklist

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Bush called for a halt to Israel's military occupation of land the Palestinians claim for a state and an end to the terrorist threat over the Jewish homeland, spelling out the U.S. bottom line Thursday for ending the long and bloody Mideast conflict.

"Now is the time to make difficult choices," Bush said. An agreement will require "painful concessions" by both sides, Bush said, but he predicted one could be reached within a year, putting himself more firmly on the line than ever for an achievement considered unlikely by many experts.

The White House said Bush would return to the Mideast at least once and possibly more this year, including another stop in Israel for its 60th anniversary celebrations in May.

US air attack south of Baghdad

ZAMBARANIYAH, Iraq (AP)—U.S. warplanes unleashed one of the most intense airstrikes of the Iraq war Thursday, dropping 40,000 pounds of explosives in a thunderous 10-minute onslaught on suspected al-Qaida in Iraq safe havens in Sunni farmlands south of Baghdad.

The mighty barrage—recalling the Pentagon's "shock and awe" raids during the 2003 invasion—appeared to mark a significant escalation in a countrywide offensive launched this week to try to cripple remaining insurgent strongholds.

But it also fits into the endgame strategy of last year's U.S. troop buildup, which seeks to regain control of Baghdad and surrounding areas as a buffer zone for the capital. U.S. commanders are now attempting to subdue the last insurgent footholds around Baghdad before the Pentagon faces a possible reduction in troop strength.

Some of the additional 30,000 troops have been pulled out and the remainder are expected to depart by June, military officials have told The Associated Press. With insurgents still holding pockets south of the capital in the north—including areas around the key northern city of Mosul—the military apparently wants to take the remaining four months or so to use the expanded military muscle against al-Qaida.

Greenland to vote on more autonomy

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Greenland will hold a referendum in November on greater autonomy from Denmark in what many residents hope could become a step toward full independence, the Arctic island's prime minister said Thursday.

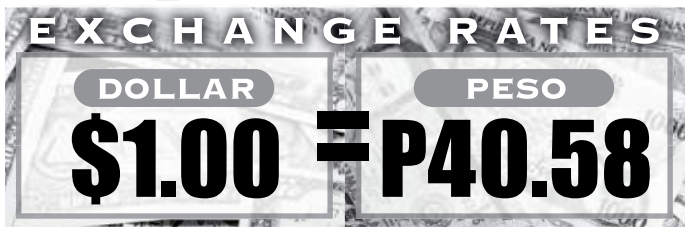
The Nov. 25 vote would be based on the recommendations of a 16-member Danish-Greenlandic commission that has been investigating what additional powers could be transferred to the semiautonomous territory, Premier Hans Enoksen said.

Populated mostly by Inuits, Greenland was granted home rule in 1978 but Denmark controls foreign affairs, defense policy and law enforcement. Denmark's Queen Margrethe is the head of state.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

BPI sees peso at 37-39 to $1 this year

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA, Philippines—The Ayala group's Bank of the Philippine Islands, the biggest banking channel for overseas Filipinos' remittances, sees the peso climbing further to 37-39 against the dollar this year.

BPI also predicted a double-digit growth in bank lending over the next three years. For this year alone, the bank's loan portfolio could expand by 12 percent, picking up from the 11-percent growth posted last year, BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said at a news briefing Thursday.

He said BPI would like to sustain a lending growth of at least 15 percent in the years ahead, with consumer loans and small and medium-scale enterprise loans as key growth drivers, without slackening in its credit criteria.

Strong peso hurting OFW families

By JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN, JOEY A. GABIETA, DAVID ISRAEL SINAY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Jasmine Cordero, whose husband works in New Zealand, feels bad that the value of the US dollar against the peso is declining.

"Before, I could receive between P10,000 and P15,000 a month from him. Now, its less than that," Cordero of Tacloban City said. Her husband, Gerry, left the country in March 2007.

The peso gained nearly 19 percent against the dollar in 2007, making it Asia's best performing currency. The Philippine currency further strengthened against the dollar at the start of 2008.

Francis Allan Angelo of Iloilo City, a son of an overseas Filipino worker, said the strong peso adversely affected his family's income.

Angelo's mother Esther has been working in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for 12 years.

"Before the dollar went down to P40, we received a monthly allotment of P25,000 to P30,000. Now, we receive only around P20,000 to 22,000," he said.

He said the strengthening of the peso came at a bad time because the family was still paying debts incurred when his father got sick.

"Before, we used to buy two sacks of rice and budget for groceries around P6,000 to P7,000 per month. Now, we have a monthly budget of P4,000 to P5,000 per month," he said.

Semi-skilled OFWs, or those earning between $200 and $399 a month, were the ones experiencing tougher times, a Malacañang deputy spokesperson said.

Evangeline Filamor, director of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for Eastern Visayas, said several OFWs visited her office to express disappointment over the strong peso.

"They even told us that they feel like not going back abroad again because of the weak dollar. But then again, they realized that they have to leave the country and work outside for the sake of their family," Filamor said.

Help in the form of training, loans and financial literacy and scholarship programs are being extended by government agencies like OWWA to OFW families.

As early as 2007, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to help OFWs, said Anthony Golez, deputy presidential spokesperson.

Dole has focused its efforts on provinces where the semi-skilled OFWs come from. They include Samar, Leyte, North Cotabato, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, Maguindanao, South Cotabato, Agusan, La Union, Isabela and Pangasinan.

"The families of the semi-skilled workers are provided with livelihood assistance, skills for employment, scholarship program, commissaries selling goods at discounted prices, and many others in coordination with (Department of Trade and Industry) and (Department of Agriculture)," Golez said in Davao City

AP

CRIME RATE DOWN
Philippine's President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo waves as she inspects the line of police during welcoming ceremony for the 107th anniversary celebration of the Manila Police District Friday Jan. 11, 2008 in Manila, Philippines. Arroyo lauded the police district, one of the most important districts that includes the Presidential Palace in its jurisdiction, for its role in curbing criminality which contributed to the 46-percent reduction of crime rate nationwide.

CNMI's first Tagalog comics is turning a year old

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Komix Pinoy, the first Tagalog comics in the CNMI, is turning a year old next week. And it is growing and expanding its readership.

From 44 pages when it first hit newsstands on Jan. 15, 2007, on Saipan, Komix Pinoy is now an 80-page free comics.

From Saipan, the comics has spread to Tinian, and then to Rota. Beginning in the latter part of 2007, copies of the publication have been brought to Guam and Saudi Arabia.

Former Saipan Unity Lions Club president Joe Digno, editor and publisher of Komix Pinoy, said in an interview yesterday that they had already established an outlet in Hong Kong, but the shipment was too expensive for him.

Digno said he and the assistant editor Romy I. Cal are very happy that, despite the slow economy in the CNMI and the high cost of production, they still managed to survive for a year.

"It's self-fulfillment. It is not about making money, but the legacy to bring back the enthusiasm of Filipinos into comics," said Digno, who is also the manager of Graphics and DL Corp.

The publisher has dedicated Komix Pinoy to his late father, Emilio S. Digno, who became part of the comics production in the Philippines when he worked at Capitol Publishing, a known comics publisher in the country.

He said Komix Pinoy is turning one year on Tuesday, Jan. 15, but that they are preparing a special anniversary edition on March 15.

Digno said what is gratifying in this project is that many Filipinos who know how to draw and love to write volunteer their free time.

In fact, two persons—Liping Valenzuela and Anton Garcia—had just joined them as novelists.

Komix Pinoy is actually the brainchild of Romy Cal, a veteran graphic artist. Cal said he is very happy that somehow they are able to continue producing the first Tagalog comics in the Commonwealth.

Cal said it is fulfilling when they received good feedback and meet new contributors.

"It's also very challenging because as we get more contributors, we get more information and learn about new layouts," Cal said.

The assistant editor said it is hard to get copies of the comics because avid readers would just take them free from the stands.

Cal encouraged fellow Filipinos in the CNMI who have businesses to help them by placing even tiny ads so the project will grow further.

Aside from Digno and Cal, Dante Guarda also serves as storywriter and illustrator, while Kristine Delos Reyes is part-time story writer.

Lacymor is the cartoonist/layout artist. The other contributors are Rev. Fr. Nonoy E. Recaido Jr., Conching I. Cal, Amihan King-Pableo, Bing Manungay, Rosalinda I. Cal, and Joe Chris Fernandez.

Komiks Pinoy is a monthly publication printed by Graphics located in Gualo Rai.

? LABOR FRONT

Detaining Refugee Protection applicants

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What will happen to an alien worker who has been ordered deported, but who is still awaiting his or her request for Nonrefoulement Protection of Refugee Protection?

A: The decision to detain applicants who have been ordered deported but who are awaiting a determination on their request for Nonrefoulement or Refugee Protection shall be at the discretion of the Attorney General or her designee. According to the Immigration Regulations, the AG's decision should be under such conditions as will ensure the persons' appearance for further proceedings, or as determined by the Superior Court in accordance with the Commonwealth's Entry and Deportation Act.

■ ■ ■

Q: Which agency will conduct background security checks on an applicant for Nonrefoulement Protection or the Refugee Protection?

A: The CNMI's Division of Immigration shall obtain each applicant's name and photographs, date of birth, fingerprints and other information that Immigration deems relevant in order to perform a background security check or to otherwise adjudicate the application for protection and administer the immigration laws.

In the case of a foreign national excluded at a Commonwealth Port of Entry, such individual will not be released from custody of the Immigration until this information has been obtained to the satisfaction of the Immigration, unless so ordered by a court.

■ ■ ■

Q: What if an applicant fails to provide the required background information?

A: Failure to cooperate with the Immigration in providing identity and other background information or to comply with all instructions of the Immigration or the Office of the Attorney General relating to the collection of this information, will be grounds for denial of the protection.

The CNMI Immigration Regulations states that it will also be grounds for arrest and removal from the Commonwealth. The AG or his or her designee may waive any of these requirements under exceptional circumstances, for humanitarian reasons.

In the event that an individual is deemed to quality Refoulement Protection or Refugee Protection but a background check has not been completed to the satisfaction of the Office of the Attorney General, the Administrative Protection Judge may conditionally grant protection pending completion of the background check.

The Regulations says that any such conditional grant of protection will be temporary and for no specific duration of time. The OAG may re-assess a conditional grant of protection, and/or issue a final determination as to the protection requested, at any time.

Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

15 held liable for Glorietta gas blast

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police are set to file criminal and administrative charges against 15 people, including employees of one of the country's top property developers, in connection with a mall blast that killed 11 people in Manila, officials said Thursday.

In their final report released Thursday, investigators ruled out terrorism as the cause of the blast at the Glorietta 2 mall in Manila's Makati financial district last October, sticking to initial findings that methane and diesel vapor triggered the explosion that also injured more than 100 people.

Police Chief Superintendent Luizo Ticman said engineers from Ayala Land Inc.—which owns and runs the mall—and Makati city fire safety inspectors were among 14 people facing criminal complaints for gross negligence resulting in multiple homicide and injuries, gross neglect of duty, corruption and violation of the fire code.

The city's fire marshal will be charged administratively for neglect of duty.

Ronaldo Puno, the interior and local government's secretary, said no top officials from Ayala Land Inc. will be charged unless evidence is gathered showing they received reports about faults in the building and did nothing.

"The investigation has ruled out with finality the terrorism or bombing theory behind the explosion," said Ticman, the head of the task force that investigated the blast.

AP

A police officer shows a model of the Glorietta mall destroyed by an explosion during a press conference Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at the Philippine National Police headquarters in suburban Quezon City north of Manila.

Police found no bomb parts or crater at the blast scene, no signs of a bomb's tearing effect on the damaged property, and no explosives residue on the skin or clothes of victims, he added.

"We view this with deep concern," Ayala said in a statement reacting to the police findings. It said its own assessment shows conditions in the mall's basement could not have resulted in the build up of methane and diesel vapor required for such a powerful blast.

It also cited laboratory results from foreign forensic experts it consulted that indicate traces of explosives were present at the site.

Bicol lawmaker denies owning Ferrari

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay Rep. Al Francis Bichara said he did not own a Ferrari.

"How I wish. It's a dream car," said Bichara, who denied owning four of the 81 luxury cars seized in Makati last month.

Bichara, who flew to Albay yesterday from Manila, clarified that the cars he owned were two Jeep Cherokees, both of which were 1995 models, a Jaguar and a Volvo. He earlier denied owning a Lamborghini.

He said some of the cars he owned were bought second-hand.

Bichara said he purchased one Cherokee for only P300,000 and that he brought home the Jaguar after his stint as Philippine ambassador to Lebanon. He acquired the Volvo in the Philippines.

The Land Transportation Office said the congressman's cars were legitimately registered.

Bichara said LTO chief Reynaldo Berroya erred in saying he owned a Ferrari as published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Thursday.

The congressman said he had brought three of his cars to the high-end repair shop in Makati City last November for their annual maintenance check.

"I was just a regular customer in that shop but since I happened to be a politician, they are dragging my name into the false controversy," Bichara said.

Eight return after 10 days adrift in Pacific

TACLOBAN CITY (Inquirer)—Eight fishermen from Eastern Samar earlier declared missing returned safely after 10 days of drifting in the Pacific Ocean, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional office reported Thursday.

The OCD identified the eight fishermen, all residents of the City of Borongan, as boat captain Nestor Sale, 43, brother Felimon, 26, Kerby Ricafort, 35, Gilbert Toral, 19, Billy Quitorio, 24, Leonardo Medrado, 36, Jose Lustre, 30, and Rogel Gaco, 30.

The eight, who sailed January 1, failed to return home and were declared missing.

Members of the Coast Guard in Borongan, Eastern Samar and other rescue groups set out to sea but could not find the missing fishermen.

OCD-8 administrative officer Rey Gozon said the Coast Guard in the City of Borongan informed them that the fishermen, who were on board F/B Josie Mea Rose, returned to the city around 12 midnight Thursday last week.

Gozon said the eight fishermen told the Coast Guard their fishing boat encountered huge waves while they were in open seas off the Pacific Ocean that damaged the front side of the boat.

"It took them a while to repair the damage," he said.

Gozon added that the fishermen failed to communicate with their families as the battery of their mobile phones were drained.

The fishermen returned to Borongan after they repaired the damage, he said.

"All of them were in good condition except for Ricafort who complained of dizziness," Gozon said.

For the past several days now, the region has been experiencing heavy rains prompting officials to warn fishermen against going to the open sea since its condition could turn from rough and to very rough with wave heights estimated to be between three to six meters.

P1B in Jose Velarde account found intact

By TJ BURGONIO, JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Making headway in its nearly two-month-long search, the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan has found P1.1 billion worth of assets in the Jose Velarde bank account of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

Edgardo Urieta, the court's chief sheriff, confirmed that the shares of stock and receivables in Estrada's account at Equitable-PCIBank, now Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc., were intact.

"This office is now in the process of consultation with Banco de Oro officials regarding the course of action in the delivery or selling at public auction of the shares of stocks of the IMA Trust Account… in order to satisfy the P189,700,000 as stated in the writ of execution in the Jose Velarde account," Urieta said in his report Thursday to the court's Special Division.

The IMA (Investment Management Account) is part of the Jose Velarde account.

A source at the court said the sheriff would meet with bank officials next week to determine if the assets "could be turned liquid."

Estrada

Estrada distanced himself from the account.

"That's a spin," he said in a call to the Philippine Daily Inquirer to dispute reports he owned the account. "Not a single cent belongs to me. That belongs to the Jose Velarde account."

After Estrada was convicted of plunder in September last year, the Sandiganbayan sheriff was ordered to seize in favor of the government P189.700 million in the Jose Velarde account, and P545.291 million in Estrada's Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

The money represented payoffs from the illegal numbers game "jueteng," and commissions from the trading of Belle Corp. shares using funds from the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System.

Since then, the sheriff had not had any luck in its search for the Jose Velarde account, managing to confirm that only P2,770.69 was left in the savings account.

A source said the sheriff's office was aware of the IMA account, but forgot where to look for it. It dug up its records, and found old reports of the bank on the account.

The sheriff's office, however, has recovered some P215 million in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, and has to recover at least P330 million more.

The Sandiganbayan convicted Estrada of two counts of plunder last Sept. 12, sentenced him up to 40 years in prison and ordered the forfeiture of his ill-gotten wealth.

Two months later, the anti-graft court issued a writ of execution to the sheriff to confiscate the funds in the Jose Velarde account and in the Muslim Youth Foundation, and to seize the so-called "Boracay mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

Estrada was pardoned by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in October, but this did not exempt him from the forfeiture proceedings, the court said.

Black Nazarene deaths pose challenge to Catholic Church

MANILA—The death of two Black Nazarene devotees last Wednesday poses a challenge to the Catholic Church and its evangelizing work.

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, spokesperson of the said Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said the tragedy meant that the Church may need to bring Filipino Catholics to a more "mature" level of faith.

This is the kind of faith that knows that it is in loving one's neighbor and living the Gospel that a person is brought nearer to God's blessings rather than the touching of a miraculous image of Jesus, said Quitorio.

"This has become a challenge to the Church, that the work of evangelization should deepen the faith. Make it stronger than this level," he said.

He said a deep understanding of one's faith will help a person understand that God's blessings will not depend on the touching of a miraculous image but on how one lives out the gospel of God.

Quitorio clarified, however, that Church officials are not passing judgment on the kind of faith espoused by the majority of Filipinos, which strongly believes that by simply touching a miraculous image of Christ or that of a saint will grant a wish or a prayer.

"That is their level of conviction. They believe that if they touch the image they will have good lives, they will be healed of their sickness. We respect this. We don't judge these acts," said Quitorio. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Ai-Ai raps son's 'maulers' at NBI

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—Actress Ai-Ai Delas Alas on Tuesday filed a criminal complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation against a store employee and a security guard of a convenience store for allegedly manhandling her 16-year-old son.

Delas Alas, whose real name is Eileen, who is a resident of Quezon City, accused Melvin C. Buseta, employee of the Mini Stop branch on P. Noval Street, Manila, and an unidentified security guard of illegal detention and grave threats for the Dec. 8 incident.

She personally went to the NBI-Special Task Force Tuesday afternoon with her lawyer, Rowena Guanzon.

Actress Ai-Ai Delas Alas.

"My son told me that while inside the Mini Stop, Melvin Buceta grabbed him by the collar, threw him with force and boxed him with force on the lower back, in full view of the people inside the store. The security guard stood nearby, obviously to make sure that my son could not fight back or escape," the actress said in the complaint she filed in behalf of her son.

She said her son had allegedly been mistaken for a shoplifter.

The actress said her son was brought to the store, where his alleged assailants then shut the door, verbally abused him, calling him a thief and a liar, and threatened to beat him up.

"My son was publicly humiliated and suffered serious anxiety," she said.

She said it took a week for her son to tell her of the incident and more time before they filed the complaint because they had difficulty getting the names of the suspects.

"It took time before we filed [the complaint] because I have been calling up the store to get the names of the employee and the security guard," she said. "But they refused to give the names and the manager said they were holding Christmas Party and I should [not have] called them up. The manager said the employee [Buseta] was no longer with them due to [a] finish[ed] contract while others said he resigned two days…after the incident," she said.

Delas Alas added that they "asked the help of the barangay officials to get the names of the suspects."

Ruffa-Daloia item is top 2007 scoop

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Top 10 Dollywood Stories in 2007

1) Ruffa Gutierrez's secret marriage to Richard Daloia in Las Vegas before she wed Yilmaz Bektas.

2) Translation of Turkish headline about Yilmaz Bektas' alleged drug-related activities.

3) Sen. Bong Revilla's love-child Luigi with my friend Lovely.

4) Sighting of Sen. Revilla and Josephine Canonizado at the airport en route to Hong Kong on separate but consecutive flights.

5) Sen. Revilla's other love-child, this one with beauty queen Josephine Canonizado.

6) KC Concepcion and Direk Lino Cayetano's blooming romance.

7) Pops Fernandez and Martin Nievera's rift caused by Katrina Ojeda's "monkey" comment about Robin and Ram Nievera.

8) First blind item about Hope Centeno and James Yap's dangerous liaison.

9) John Estrada's admission of a relationship with Ms. Earth Priscilla Mireilles.

10) Blind item about Kristine Hermosa being unfriendly to Marian Rivera during their TV commercial shoot.

27 Awards for 2007's Best

■ Stars I'll never get tired of interviewing: Aga and Charlene Muhlach, Ogie Alcasid

■ Easiest to interview: Dingdong Dantes

■ Most inspiring: Lea Salonga

■ Star with the most sensible answers: Marvin Agustin

■ Funniest interviewee: Ai Ai de las Alas

■ Naughtiest: John Estrada

■ Most controversial: Gretchen Barretto

■ Stars with the most profound answers: Cesar Montano and Miriam Quiambao

■ Wittiest: Gloria Diaz and Boy Abunda

■ Most attentive interviewee: Piolo Pascual

■ Most engaging: Amalia Fuentes

■ Most tactful: Dr. Vicki Belo

■ Most accommodating: Zsa Zsa Padilla and Diether Ocampo

■ Stars who reply the quickest: Ruffa Mae Quinto and Alfred Vargas

■ Most sincere interviewee: Angel Locsin

■ Most empowering: Donna Villa

■ Most polite: Sam Milby and Dennis Trillo

■ Star without show biz answers: Alessandra de Rossi

■ Most dramatic interviewee: Sunshine Cruz

■ Most gracious: Marian Rivera and Lucy Torres Gomez

■ Most quotable: Mo Twister

■ Most charming: Christian Bautista and Tin Tin Bersola

■ Most exciting: Katrina Halili

■ Most candid: Polo Ravales

■ Most relaxed: Paulene Luna

■ Most frank: Direk Joey Javier Reyes

■ Least inhibited: Direk Maryo J de los Reyes and Vhong Navarro

■■■

Anne Curtis and Sam Milby looked dazed at the Power Plant Rockwell last Dec. 31. The mall was about to close. An eyewitness recalls, "It seemed like they didn't know where to go. They sat by the escalator staring into space."

Maybe Anne and Sam were just in an introspective mood. I texted Sam and asked if he and Anne had indeed spent New Year's Eve together; he hasn't replied. Did their pensive looks really mean they wanted to ask each other, "What are you doing not just on New Year's eve but for the rest of your life?"

Anne Curtis

Darna or Dyesebel?

Katrina Halili is all agog for her birthday show on Jan. 12 in Zirkoh Timog. Will there be any special guy in the audience? "Nope. I'm loveless—by choice," said FHM's sexiest.

She's got a full calendar but an empty heart. Work is her priority. Is she eyeing the role of "Darna" or "Dyesebel"? "Darna sana pero alam ko may napili ng iba. Pati Dyesebel meron na."

Doesn't she feel that GMA-7 should give her a lead role considering her loyalty to the network? "Decision ng management 'yun. Wala akong magagawa kundi sumunod."

Such obedience! Or is that subject to change until further notice? Won't Katrina do a Darna and fly the coop to stay afloat ala-Dyesebel?

No laughing matter

Ai Ai de las Alas sounded like the "Tanging Ina" that she really is when she told me about the harrowing experience of her 16-year-old son at the Mini Stop convenience store on P. Noval.

She lamented: "Pinagkamalan ang son ko na shoplifter. Kinulong siya sa stockroom. Pilit pinapaamin ng cashier na nagnakaw siya. May pera 'yung son ko. I'm working hard and I've raised my kids well. Napakasakit na pagbintangan ang anak ko na nagnakaw. I brought my son to a child psychiatrist. I told him not to think of revenge. I'm filing charges against the cashier and the store. I'll fight for the rights of my son, who's still a minor."

It's no laughing matter for the comedienne. If the mess isn't ironed out, that Mini Stop branch should instead be called an "inconvenience" store, for harassing customers.

Seeking attention

Guess who this chanteuse is. She annoyed other guests in a ritzy Cebu hotel when she suddenly vocalized while walking across the lobby. Was she desperately seeking attention? Nobody recognized her even as she paraded around the hotel.

One guest exclaimed upon seeing the singer's picture inside the elevator, "Oh! That's her name and she has a show pala here. Di ko talaga siya kilala at di ko mapapansin kung 'di siya biglang nagtono ng boses na super-lakas!"

The holidays ain't over till the T.H. lady sings!

Overjoyed

Direk Joey Javier Reyes is satisfied with the results of the MMFF awards. "I'm overjoyed that Jinggoy Estrada won Best Actor because he has compassion for film workers. I'm also glad that a new director (Cesar Apolinario) bagged the Best Director trophy. New blood keeps the industry alive and growing."

Direk needs no more trophies. He is a true winner for letting others shine.

Well-deserved awards

"Bahay Kubo" is quite long since its array of stars each had to have "moments." The plot is too dramatic to be true. Maricel Soriano and Eugene Domingo's effortless rapport is the film's redeeming factor.

Maria and Uge's MMFF Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress awards, respectively, are well-deserved. They must make more movies together. Only seasoned actresses like them can effectively mix drama and comedy.

PERSONAL FINANCE

3 questions to ask before buying home insurance

By CARLOS GONZALES
MONEYSENSE

If you're looking to insure your home, you need to ask yourself and the insurance agent these basic questions.

1. What do I need to cover?

Most insurance companies offer basic coverage for home insurance, particularly fire and lightning plus third party liability. But there are a lot of optional add-ons covering more protection from allied perils, such as from earthquakes, floods, typhoons, riots, strikes, malicious damage, burglary, personal liability, and the like, says Redentor Ramos, Assistant Manager-Property & Engineering for the Technical Underwriting Department of Paramount Insurance.

Figure out exactly what you want protection from. If you want to insure valuables inside your house, then include them for coverage. If you're in a flood-prone area, add flood protection. On the flip side, if you don't think your house will get hit by a crashing plane or it's highly unlikely rioters will cause damage to your house, then exclude coverage for these. Some insurers offer accident, hospitalization, and personal liability insurance. If you already have those from separate policies, you don't have to include them.

2. How much is the value?

It's very important to estimate the value of your house and its contents. "The client should provide this but we can help in estimating the value of both the building and contents," says Redentor. "The size of the building, age, and type of construction are major components in determining the sound value of the building. For the contents, it is easier to estimate every household item."

Make sure you exclude the value of your land since you only need to insure your house and your property inside, not the lot itself, which won't be damaged from fire, floods, and other perils.

When you renew your policy, reevaluate the value of both the house and your possessions. Your home's value may have appreciated and you may have purchased new expensive items you may want to insure, thus increasing the coverage you need. Otherwise, you'd be in danger of under-insurance.

On the other hand, you may have sold some possessions or their value (maybe even your house's market value) has depreciated. So you may not need as much coverage as before and you can lower policy limits for possible savings.

3. How much will I receive if I file a claim?

The basic home insurance covers fire and lightning up to the face value you purchased. Make sure the policy states that your insurer will pay the replacement value, not actual cash value, which is often less than the amount it would take to replace damaged property.

Redentor says homeowners insurance is an open policy, "meaning in case of a claim, the property affected is subject to assessment to determine actual damage (that the insurer will pay) versus sound value."

As for optional covers like property insurance for other perils, protection for your valuable possessions inside your home, and cover for burglary, there are limits commensurate to the additional premium you pay. So check if you are getting adequate cover based on the estimated value of the property and possessions you insured. Know also exactly what is covered and what is excluded from the policy. Redentor explains, "Please remember that this insurance is a 'named perils" insurance, which means coverage depends on what kind of peril is insured."

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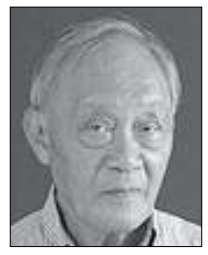
Maharlika – Opinyon

Poll fever heats up after Estrada bares plans



ANALYSIS
By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Whether or not convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada is eligible to run for reelection in 2010, his announcement that he is available to be the presidential candidate of a hypothetical united opposition has sparked an early scramble for the presidency.

Estrada's announcement last month served as a catalyst, probably his most useful political achievement after he was granted an absolute presidential pardon after his conviction.

Within a week, up to a dozen presidential aspirants had emerged in one of the most crowded electoral fields since the restoration of democracy in the country in 1986. As many as six presidential aspirants surfaced from the opposition camp, and an equal number on the administration side.

With the exception of Estrada, all of those mentioned as possible presidential contenders represent a new and younger generation of leaders. Mostly in their 50s, they are a cut-off from the generation of Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Estrada. They symbolize the passing of the torch from the period spanned by two People Power upheavals (1986 and 2001).

Truly, 2010 heralds the closure of the turbulent EDSA-driven eras, defined by extra-electoral political change, and the beginning and the normalization of electoral politics now under the specter of military coups or withdrawal of support for sitting civilian governments.

This epochal shift gives us the opportunity to make a leadership change that offers this time a wide range of choices.

It is the advent of a younger generation in 2010 that makes the next election a qualitative change from the previous leadership handovers.

We will be electing in 2010 a new set of leaders who will take power with electoral mandates unblemished by the irregularity of an extra-electoral method of change represented by EDSA I and EDSA II, both marked by military interventions.

Year 2010, therefore, will mark a return to normal election processes as a mechanism of political change. This is what makes it a hopeful transition, although the relatively large field of choices does not ensure the emergence of an honest, efficient and results-oriented administration.

Cutthroat competition

In the wake of announcements of intentions to contest the presidency, the space on both the opposition and administration sides is terribly congested. This congestion has set the tone for cutthroat competition. No two competing grand alliance is emerging.

In brief, the scramble touched off by Estrada's announcement has opened an extremely fluid realignments of parties, big or small.

Scanning those mentioned as presidential possibilities, we find that the field has not changed much since the two-party system was established in 1946. Most of them are recruited from the legislature, mainly the Senate. Most have derived their political experience and apprenticeship in the legislature.

For example, the opposition side is top heavy with Senators Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar, Manuel Roxas II, Panfilo Lacson and Francis Escudero, none of whom has executive experience. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is an exception.

On the administration side, there are more aspirants recruited from the executive department—Vice President Noli de Castro, although he had been senator; Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and former mayor of Marikina City; Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., but he had also been a congressman; Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, also an ex-congressman, and Sen. Richard Gordon, previously head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

From the legislative mill

Most Philippine postwar presidents were recruited through the legislative mill, among them Senators Elpidio Quirino and Carlos Garcia, Senate President Ferdinand Marcos and Representatives Diosdado Macapagal and Ramon Magsaysay.

Although Magsaysay had a productive stint as chair of the House committee on national defense, his stint as Quirino's defense secretary and later as the country's President (1953-57) was unique and defined him as a man of action rather than a man of debate in parliamentary politics.

Magsaysay's dynamic orientation for results has left the legacy of a presidency marked by integrity, action and the broadest confidence and trust of the Filipino people in the history of the presidency. The emergence of such a man of the hour is what many Filipinos are craving to happen in 2010.

Aquino, Ramos and Estrada, a Vice President and previously senator and mayor of then San Juan town in Metro Manila, were also exceptions to the pattern of recruitment mainly drawn from the legislative department.

Results of these departures were relatively happy in the case of Aquino and Ramos, but Estrada was not the best example of the contribution of local governments to the presidency.

Party system

Two main party configurations are merging in the process of rebuilding the pre-martial law two-party system and strengthening the multiparty system that followed the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship.

The two-party structure is fragile and based on the former Nacionalista Party and the Liberal Party. These two parties cannot be used as substantial political vehicles with nationwide networks for Roxas with the LP and Villar for the NP. Both parties hold few seats in the House.

The LP is split by the faction of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and of former Senate President Franklin Drilon. This undermines the presidential aspirations of Senator Roxas.

The LP members are trying to rebuild the party on the dynastic structure of the Roxas family. They have to enter into a coalition with larger party configurations to give Roxas a wider political base and machine.

It is the same with the NP of Villar, which holds even fewer seats in the House than the LP.

Smaller parties

The other small party in the House is the Nationalist People's Coalition, which is a key segment of the administration Lakas-NUCD coalition.

The smaller parties on the administration-opposition divide are subsumed by the two emerging large configurations—on the administration's side—Lakas and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's own party, and the coalition of the opposition made up of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino of Sen. Edgardo Angara, Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban, and the minuscule Puwersa ng Masa of Estrada.

After Estrada's maneuver to act as kingmaker of the opposition, the disunity of the opposition parties even became more pronounced. In trying to seize the initiative for the opposition's 2010 campaign, Estrada prompted the administration coalition to flex its organizational muscle.

Patronage resources

The coalition's Big Three—Ms Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Ramos—have set in motion an early selection and nomination process for the majority coalition. They have the advantage of patronage resources of incumbency.

The opposition alliance must not forget this element even if it claims to have deep and crowded bench for selection. The fluid situation of coalitions is rife with opportunities for established minor parties to act as kingmakers in the nomination process.

I refer for example to Angara's LDP and Danding Cojuangco's NPC. They have significant party structures and they could swing across the divide of the opposition and administration camps.

Any grand alliance, and that includes the Lakas-Kampi alignment for the administration, can easily crumble from swings by smaller parties. There will be full of surprises.

A-list of dinner guests

LOOKING BACK
By AMBETH OCAMPO
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Often at slow dinners someone tries to break the ice by asking others what books, discs, or personal belongings they would take if stranded on a deserted island. Another version of this ice-breaker is to ask people around the table who are the people in history they would want to converse with if they had a time machine.

People expect me to put Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Aguinaldo and the brothers Antonio and Juan Luna at the top of my list because I seem to write about them all the time. If I were to go through all of world history, there would be too many guests to fit comfortably at a dinner table, so let's stick to Philippine history. My list would include the "usual suspects" above, but they would be secondary guests because I have done so much research on them I probably know more about their lives than they do.

My "A-list" includes a cast of obscure characters like Mateo de los Angeles, the Filipino gamekeeper who was sent to Spain in the 18th century with an albino deer that was given to the king as a gift. Thanks to Dr. Luciano Santiago, who shared his research material with me, I have since written a short piece about this man who lived on the royal game preserve, returned to the Philippines, and fought on the Spanish side during the British Occupation. What makes him significant is that he wrote the king to ask for a reward. He did not want gold or jewels, he simply wanted to be declared "white."

I would also like to meet Limahong and find out what he saw in the Philippines that made it so desirable that he tried to wrest it from Spain.

Then there is the unknown potter (probably a woman) who made the now famous Calatagan Pot in the National Museum. This simple, almost crude, pot has writing on the neck in a pre-colonial syllabary that has confounded pre-historians for almost half a century. What is the mystery behind the writing? Is it, as Guillermo Tolentino claimed, an ancient Philippine curse? Does it really say, "Kung mabasag mo ako mamalasin ka" ["Cursed will ye be if ye break me"]. Can the curse be more creative than my favorite Egyptian curse from Cristina Cuyugan, which goes, "May all your teeth fall off but one, and may that one ache for all eternity!"

Then there is Jose E. Marco who created the most elaborate hoaxes of the 20th-century Philippines. In a career that spanned over half a century, Marco passed off fake historical documents to librarians, scholars and collectors. Starting with an ingenious document on tree bark written with cuttlefish ink, he created a whole pre-colonial world when scholars were just piecing together the jigsaw puzzle that is our history. Marco not only covered pre-Spanish Philippines, leaving us with the now (in)famous Code of Kalantiao, he is also credited with creating a whole corpus of work by Fr. Jose Burgos, the most famous of which is "La Loba Negra," which has inspired a play by Virginia Moreno, entitled "Itim Asu," and an opera by Francisco Feliciano. My Chinese-Filipino students know that when you break up the name Kalantiao into Ka-Lantiaw with "ka" being an honorific, you are actually honoring a significant part of the male anatomy. Nobody seemed to have gotten the joke for the longest time, blinded by their reverence for this pre-colonial law and lawmaker who allegedly lived in Batan, Aklan, in 1433.

Then there is Pascual Racuyal, who is unknown to this generation. Racuyal was famous every time we had elections because he had the unique distinction of having run, and lost, in all presidential elections from the time of Manuel Quezon to that of Ferdinand Marcos. If I am not mistaken he was still alive and kicking during the 1986 snap elections, when he was finally declared a nuisance candidate. If he were alive and running in 2010, I guess Filipinos would be willing to give this contemporary Don Quixote a chance to make our lives better. In 1952 he asked Ramon Magsaysay, Arsenio Lacson, Lorenzo Tañada and Trinidad Legarda to be his running mate. All of them refused. Whether they were right or wrong, we will never know. But for the record, Racuyal's 10-point agenda as listed in the Manila Times were as follows:

"1. Application of naturo-therapy to solve the Huk problem. 2. Introduction of Racuyal's standard calendar of 30 days a month, 13 months a year, which if found imperfect could be corrected by an international conference of astronomers. 3. Adoption of Jehovah for the 13th day of each month. No name for the 13th month supplied. 4. Construction of a system of plastic roads throughout Mindanao. 5. Abolition of floods in Central Luzon through a top secret system of dikes. 6. Institution of a new monetary system with fire-proof, water-proof and counterfeit-proof plastic currency. 7. Establishment of the seat of the UN Assembly in Baguio City. 8 Use of an algebraic-geometric detection code for rooting out graft and corruption in government. 9. Resort to surprise blitzkrieg helicopter raids all over the Philippines led by himself to combat racketeers, gangsters, etc. 10. To solve the current Mayor-City Council disputes, he suggested abolition of the Municipal Council."

They say there is a hairline that separates genius from madness. Looking at the above agenda, maybe we should have given him a chance?

Racuyal is my Guy. He is foil to boring dinner conversation.

Letter to the Editor

Ironic concern for OFW lives

I cannot help but agree with Ramon Tulfo when he wrote in his Nov. 12 column that "Our President's actions are a bit ironic. She would go out of her way to save two Filipino lives abroad—those of Marilou Ranario and Angelo de la Cruz, who was kidnapped by Iraqi terrorists who threatened to kill him if the Philippine military contingent was not withdrawn from Iraq—but not or would not spare the lives of hundreds of leftists and journalists who were supposedly executed by her security forces."

It, therefore, behooves President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to put a stop to the extrajudicial killings particularly by the military if only to prove that she is sincere in protecting human rights and in saving human lives.

Crisostomo B. Vilar
Vice mayor, Pagsanjan

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

NEW YEAR'S EVE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Businessman Isagani Benoza, standing second from left, celebrates New Year's Eve with his family and friends at the Coral Garden in San Roque.

FMI CLEANUP

Friends of the Mariana Islands president Marites Castillo and vice president Diomedes Duculan stand beside their banner Sunday morning for the Inshore Drainage Cleanup/Restoration Environmental Project funded by MOBIL Oil Mariana Islands Inc.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Friends of the Mariana Islands director members Camilo and Radino cut the tall grasses by using bush cutters along the Tun Joaquin Doi Road going down to Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Friends of the Mariana Islands during the drainage cleanup along Tun Joaquin Doi Road going down to Chalan Kanoa Sunday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN APPRECIATION

Former Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Christine Parke, center, is presented with a certificate of appreciation by Bisaya Global adviser Nel Atalig, right, and CNMI Power president Ladyvir DLC. Canape at the conclusion of The Winning Edge seminar, held at the Multi-Purpose Center on Dec. 16, 2007. The seminar was the last workshop facilitated by Rico "Dr. Love" Cardoniga and cosponsored by CNMI Power & Bisaya Global for 2007.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE CHAMPION

Jhun M. Duque (aka Angel Montecarlo) of Hibiscus Salon and Hawaiian Gift Shop in San Antonio performs his winning piece during the first ever Battle of Champions lip syncing contest held at Troy on Jan. 4, 2008. Duque was declared the grand champion in the contest, where he also won the special award as "Star of the Night."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE WINNERS

John Bobila (aka Jackie Madrigal) of Hibiscus Salon, left, the second placer and Miss Confidence awardee, and Patrick of Ystilo Salon, right, who placed third in the contest, flank the overall champion, Jhun Duque (aka Angel Montecarlo) of Hibiscus Salon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

In Kenya, a disputed election leads to violence

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

A disputed presidential election 11 days ago in Kenya has ripped that east African country apart. More than 300 people have died in the fighting, and tens of thousands have fled their homes.

Here is what's going on:

Soon after the Dec. 27 vote, Kenya's election commission announced that President Mwai Kibaki (pronounced muh-WHY key-BAH-key) had been narrowly re-elected. Immediately there were charges that the votes had not been counted honestly. Kibaki's rival, Raila Odinga (rah-EE-lah o-DIN-gah), called him a thief who stole the election and demanded that Kibaki step down. The head of the election panel later said he was pressured into making a quick announcement, and that he is not sure who won the election.

Anger over the announced results unleashed deep ethnic tensions in Kenya.

An ethnic group is a collection of people who identify with each other, usually based on a common language, religion or culture. Kenya is a nation of tribes—more than 40 of them. Kibaki is a Kikuyu (KEE-koo-yoo), Kenya's largest ethnic group and thus a political and economic force. Odinga is a Luo (LOO-o), also a major tribe.

Many Luos feel they have been treated unfairly by the ruling Kikuyus. On the other side, many Kikuyus feel that it was their tribe that won independence for Kenya in the 1960s and that this entitles them to wealth and power.

Normally, tribal differences are worked out peacefully, but not this time. Violence has broken out in towns across Kenya, with Luos killing Kikuyus in western parts of the country, and Kikuyus attacking Luos in the country's midsection.

In one of the more shocking incidents, more than 30 Kikuyus—many of them children—were killed last week after taking shelter from a mob in a church in the town of Eldoret.

The violence threatens to ruin Kenya's reputation as one of Africa's most promising democracies. The impact also is being felt in nearby countries whose fuel and other important goods come through Kenya.

Kenya's top law official, Attorney General Amos Wako, is seeking an independent review of the election results. World leaders have called for an end to the bloodletting, and Kenya's leading newspapers have been encouraging people to "save our beloved country," the Associated Press reported.

Hassan Omar Hassan, of the Kenyan National Human Rights Commission, says that both sides need to help end the violence: "I just hope that (Odinga) and (Kibaki) will restore calm, and that they will acknowledge that the solution rests in both of them. They are putting people who are innocent into danger."

A NATION DIVIDED

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

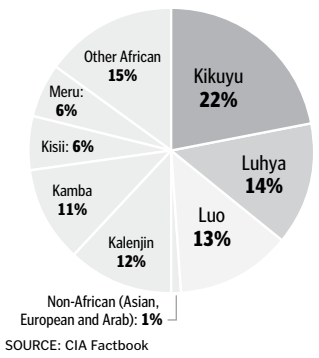
Kenya's 36 million people are split into more than 40 ethnic groups, with strong identities and separate languages.

- Kikuyu, 22 percent
- Luhya, 14 percent
- Luo, 13 percent
- Kalenjin, 12 percent
- Kamba, 11 percent
- Kisii, 6 percent
- Meru, 6 percent
- Other African,15 percent
- Non-African (Asian, European and Arab), 1 percent

Source: CIA Factbook

A Nation Divided

Kenya's 36 million people are split into more than 40 **ethnic groups**, *with strong identities and separate languages.*



SOURCE: CIA Factbook

MAP BY GENE THORP — THE WASHINGTON POST

KENYA FACT

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Forty-two percent of Kenya's population is under age 15. In the United States, the figure is 20 percent.

Hippo, Hurray! You're never too old to enjoy Sandra Boynton

By EVE ZIBART
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Good gnus, Sandra Boynton fans! The popular author/songwriter/illustrator has released her fourth CD/book.

The songs on "Blue Moo: 17 Jukebox Hits from Way Back Never" were recorded by some well-known performers and sound as if they were written in the 1950s and '60s (but they're more fun).

Beach Boy Brian Wilson sings all 11 parts on "Speed Turtle," ex-Monkee Davy Jones sings "Your Personal Penguin," and B.B. King thumps out "One Shoe Blues":

I woke up this mornin'
and I couldn't find my shoe.
Although the right one is here,
I need the left one, too.

Boynton introduced several of the songs recently at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage in Washington. Her band included Jones and her four children, the youngest of whom is a teen-ager.

Boynton, 54, grew up in Pennsylvania and now lives in Connecticut. Her first fame came as a greeting-card artist: "I needed to make some money for college, but I hated being a waitress," she says.

A birthday card she drew in 1975—"Hip-po bir-die two ewe ... hippo birdie deer ewe," it reads—has sold more than 10 million copies and been redrawn five times. (The printing plates wear out.) She has designed an estimated 6,000 greeting cards in all. The first of her nearly 50 books was "Hippos Go Berserk!" Other popular titles include "Pajama Time," "Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!" and "Barnyard Dance!"

She has also designed baby clothes, toys, calendars, gift wrap, coffee mugs, note pads, jewelryand pajamas. (At the Kennedy Center, she wore pajamas onstage.)

Boynton started writing songs in 1995 with the words for "Rhinoceros Tap," another CD/book. She and musician Michael Ford have teamed on approximately 50 songs, including two other CD/books: "Philadelphia Chickens" and "Dog Train," which has songs by Weird Al Yankovic and Hootie and the Blowfish.

Besides hippos, pigs, cats and dogs, koalas and cows, Boynton draws romantic porcupines, tango-happy rabbits, purple elephants, bashful bears, angry anteaters, opera-quacking ducks and swing-dancing chickens.

Since 1975, more than 10 million people have received this Sandra Boynton birthday card.

THE WASHINGTON POST

MEET SANDRA BOYNTON

By Eve Zibart
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

- Favorite color: Sapphire blue. "I just like the way it sounds."
- Animal that's the most fun to draw: "Pigs. They have so much personality. And then, of course, they're pink. You just can't beat pink for being cheerful."
- Animal she most closely identifies with: "Cats. They have good will overall, but they're always a little perplexed and a little skeptical."
- Animal she can't draw: "Mosquitoes—never could get that nose thing down."
- Animal she's afraid of: Rats.

Sandra Boynton, 54, grew up in Pennsylvania and now lives in Connecticut. Her first fame came as a greeting-card artist: "I needed to make some money for college, but I hated being a waitress," she says.

THE WASHINGTON POST

For Yuja Wang, all the world is her stage

By MOIRA E. MCLAUGHLIN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Yuja Wang was 14 she moved from Beijing halfway around the world to Canada. Her parents stayed in China.

Such is the life of a piano prodigy.

Wang's amazing musical talent had been known for a long time. She played the piano better than most adults could. Her parents wanted her to receive advanced training, so they sent her to Canada and, a year later, the United States to study at a special music school called a conservatory.

Since leaving China six years ago, piano prodigy Yuja Wang, now 20, has played all over the world. She will be at the Kennedy Center in Washington Jan. 26. Wang, shown at age 18, practices two to three hours a day for two weeks to memorize 100 pages of music.

THE WASHINGTON POST

"People always ask me, `Did you know you'd be a pianist?' I didn't really think about it. I just thought it was fun," says Wang, now 20.

She started playing piano at age 6. Music was a way of life in her home—her mother was a dancer; her father plays drums (and accompanies her when she is in China).

Wang performs around the world. She had a concert in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Jan. 7, and she will be at the Kennedy Center in Washington on Jan. 26.

From memory, she can play 20 piano concertos, long pieces of music for orchestra and piano. "You (have to) remember not only the part you're playing, but also the orchestra," she says. It takes her about two weeks, practicing two to three hours a day, to memorize 100 pages of music. "Once I play them, (they are) in my hands."

Performing doesn't make Wang nervous, not even when, as happened last March with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, she is asked to fill in at the last minute. (It helped that she already knew the piece she was asked to play.)

"I don't get it when people get nervous," she says. She has her mother to thank, in part. Before Wang's first piano recital, her mom told her to pretend that she was practicing. That first concert "was very positive," she says. "The audience was a cloud of darkness."

When not performing or traveling, Wang likes to shop, watch movies and read. "I do read a lot because I am on the road alone a lot," she says. One of her favorite books is "The Lord of the Rings."

Before a recent concert with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Wang met with several young musicians.

Ellie Clark, a 10-year-old violinist, thought Wang's life sounded "really cool." Max Burzinski, a 10-year-old who plays piano, saxophone and guitar, thought it sounded crazy because "you're never in one place for very long."

Wang says she doesn't get homesick: "It seems really easy for me. It seems natural and almost inevitable." Her parents miss her more than she misses them, she figures. She sees them about once a year.

"Piano is my life," she says. "I just practice and do everything I can to enhance my music."

Alzheimer's has an effect on kids, too

By KATHERINE SHAVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Elana and Jolie Cohen visited their great-grandmother in Gaithersburg, Md., recently, she greeted them with a gleeful "Oh, my girls! My girls!"

But what followed wasn't a typical chat. Their great-grandmother, Barbara Rukovina (whom the girls call Mucker), usually makes no sense. She doesn't remember their names. Often, she doesn't seem to know where she is.

Rukovina is quickly losing her memory—and not because she's 92. She has Alzheimer's disease.

The fatal illness, which is named after a German doctor and pronounced ALTS-high-merz, kills brain cells that help people remember, think and behave.

Everyone forgets sometimes, like when you leave your backpack at school. But people with Alzheimer's lose so much of their memory that they can't remember basic things such as how to make a sandwich.

About 5 million Americans have the disease, which usually affects those older than 65. Researchers are trying to find a cause and a cure.

Rukovina's illness started three years ago. Jolie remembers when Mucker suddenly announced that she had to leave an ice cream parlor because she needed to get back to the nursing home for her wedding. (Her husband died in 2000.)

Watching their great-grandmother get worse is sad and sometimes scary for the girls. Mucker lives on a locked floor at Asbury Methodist Village—visitors must punch in a code to get in or out—because Alzheimer's patients often try to wander outside, where they could get lost or hurt.

On a recent visit, Elana, who is 8, gave Mucker a colorful placemat she had made in her second-grade class. About 10 minutes later, Mucker acted as if she had never seen it. "Oh, what's this?" she said with a pleasant smile.

Sometimes she's funny. The girls shared a giggle when Mucker turned to Elana and asked, for no reason, "Do you want me to be a dumbbell?"

Once in a while, she surprises them by making perfect sense. "Those are cute," she said, eyeing Jolie's pink Crocs.

But most of the time she's difficult to understand. Elana and Jolie smile and nod anyway. They say they don't want to hurt her feelings.

"You just sort of go along with it," said Jolie, who is 10 and in fourth grade.

Experts say such visits are key to staying close. Kids should remember that people with Alzheimer's "still love them, even if the disease is affecting them," said Peter Reed, of the Alzheimer's Association, which is based in Chicago. "They're still the person they've always known and loved, and they can still do things with them."

Jolie and Elana agreed. "I still love her," Elana said of Mucker. "She's part of our family."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jolie Cohen helps her great-grandmother, nicknamed Mucker, find the correct room at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Md. The girls say that watching Mucker, who has Alzheimer's disease, get worse is sad and sometimes scary.

WHAT TO DO

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If a relative or friend has Alzheimer's:

- Learn about the disease so you will know what's happening and what to expect as it gets worse.
- Know that even if the person forgets a lot, he or she still feels your kindness.
- Do things together to stay close. Blow bubbles. Go for a walk. Read to him or her.
- When you're with the person, make sure you stay safe. It's not a good idea to have him or her drive you somewhere, for example.
- If it's a grandparent who is sick, remember that your mom or dad might be really stressed out from caring for that person.

For more information, go to www.alz.org and click on "Living With Alzheimer's" and then "Just for Kids & Teens."

Source: Alzheimer's Association

BOOKS THAT MIGHT HELP

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Written for fourth- through seventh-graders, these books look at how kids and teens are affected by a loved one having Alzheimer's.

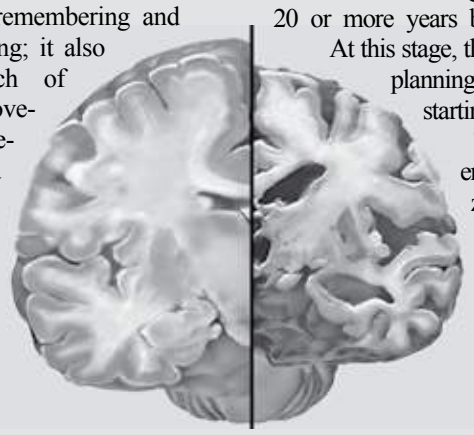
- "***An Early Winter***," by Marion Dane Bauer. An 11-year-old boy must learn to accept his grandfather's illness.
- "***Horse Whispers in the Air***," by Dandi Daley Mackall. A teen-age horse handler has enough to worry about without her grandfather wandering away in the middle of the night.
- "***The Graduation of Jake Moon***," by Barbara Park. His grandfather's decline embarrasses a boy and strains his friendships and family relations.

Source: Alzheimer's Association

The workings of the brain

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Your brain has three main parts. 1. The cerebrum is involved in thinking, feeling, remembering and problem-solving; it also controls much of the body's movement. The cerebrum has a wrinkled gray surface called the cortex. 2. The cerebellum controls coordination and balance. 3. The brainstem manages automatic responses such as breathing and heart rate. 4. An adult's brain has about 100 billion nerve cells (neurons) that connect like trillions of tiny tree branches. Neurons are the main type of cell destroyed by Alzheimer's.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Cutaways of a healthy brain, left, and a brain affected by Alzheimer's. The severe form of the disease might last one to five years. Because of cell damage, the brain shrinks, patients can't communicate and they fail to recognize family and close friends.

Alzheimer's patients live an average of eight years with the disease, though some live much longer.

The earliest changes might begin 20 or more years before diagnosis. At this stage, thinking, learning, planning and memory are starting to be affected.

The mild-to-moderate stage of Alzheimer's usually lasts two to 10 years. Speaking and understanding what others are saying might be affected.

The severe form of the disease might last one to five years. Because of cell damage, the brain shrinks, patients can't communicate and they fail to recognize family and close friends.

***Source**: Alzheimer's Association*

Who was Alzheimer?

Alois Alzheimer was a German physician. In 1907 he wrote about the abnormalities he had found while examining the brain of a woman who died after developing severe memory loss and other problems with thinking and speaking.

After more research was done, another doctor suggested naming the disease after Alzheimer.

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Sisters Elana, left, and Jolie Cohen visit their great-grandmother, Barbara Rukovina, who is losing her memory because of Alzheimer's disease, at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Md. The fatal illness kills brain cells that help people remember, think and behave.

BOOK REVIEW

"Igraine the Brave," by Cornelia Funke

Ages 8 and older

Older fans of Cornelia Funke's more serious novels—"The Thief Lord" and "Inkheart," for example—might find this tale of a girl who longs to be a knight a little light.

But "Igraine the Brave" is light in the way that Funke's earlier novel "Dragon Rider" is light. That is, it's full of de-light.

Igraine finds life in a castle in the woods with her magician parents and older brother pretty boring until the evil nephew of the family's next-door neighbor shows up with a plan to capture the castle and Igraine's parents. She must save the day with the help of a Gentle Giant, a Sorrowful Knight and Sisyphus, her talking cat.

Funke, who has a knack for writing strong girl characters that also appeal to boys, has done it again in this novel, which is perfect for 8- to 10-year-olds.

For older Funke fans, the still-unnamed conclusion to the "Inkheart" trilogy is due out this year, and the "Inkheart" movie will be in theaters in the spring.

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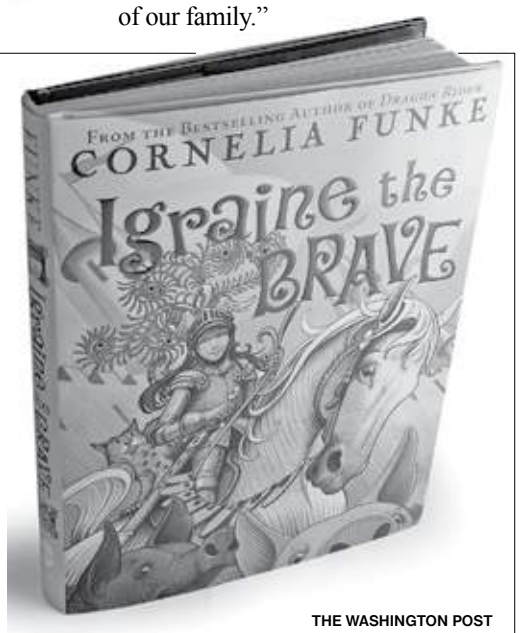
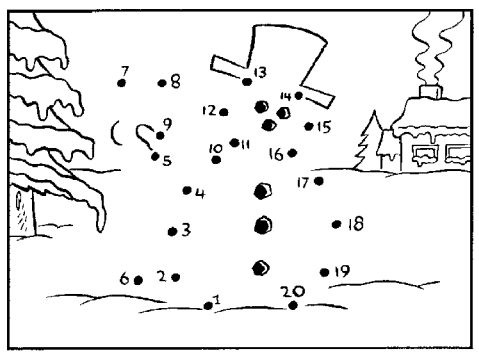


THE WASHINGTON POST

Cornelia Funke, who has a knack for writing strong girl characters that also appeal to boys, has done it again in "Igraine the Brave."



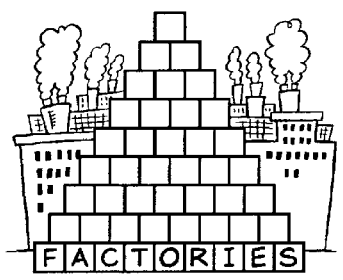
A SNOWY SECRET! What grows down in the winter? Connect the dots and find out.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Answer: An icicle.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

Starting with the given word FACTORIES at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with FACTORIES:

1. Where goods are made (given).
2. What weathermen do.
3. Found under a drinking glass.
4. Wooden containers.
5. A wide-eyed gaze.
6. Clear, salty liquid.
7. A long period of time.
8. Egyptian sun god.
9. Abbr. for chess piece.

Answers (from the bottom up): Factories, forecast, coaster, crates, stare, tear, era, Ra, r (rook)

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Answer: If you drop the "T," you have the first letters of the months of the year, January through December.

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "BOATER." See if you can replace these letters in the square so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

B	C	O
O		E
A	L	E
T		
E	L	
R		

Answers: (Across) Cob, are, lea, lot. (Down) Call, Oreo (cookie).

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Those who study such things claim that to get a truly random mix in a deck of playing cards, the deck must be shuffled seven times.

■ Herpetologists—and a number of Floridians, I'll bet—know that young alligators moo like calves.

■ You've probably heard of oak trees living to be 500 or more years old, but orange trees? It's true; it has been documented that one citrus tree has been producing oranges for nearly 500 years.

■ Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer, built his first computer in 1961, when he was just 11 years old.

■ Most people realize that many places in the United States were once known by different names. Here's a sampling: the Potomac River was originally called Conococheague Creek, Camp David was named Shangri-La, and the USA itself was once known as the United States of Congress Assembled.

■ England's virgin queen, Elizabeth I, went bald at the age of 29. Smallpox was the culprit.

■ In parts of Illinois, it was once illegal to put a cake in a cookie jar.

■ It's been reported that the country's first pizza parlor was in New York City—naturally. It opened in 1885, but barely got by. In 1895, it was sold for a mere $200—small change even in those times.

■ It was famed 19th-century American naturalist and author Henry David Thoreau who made the following observation about language: "When I read some of the rules for speaking and writing the English language correctly—as that a sentence must never end with a participle —and perceive how implicitly even the learned obey it, I think—any fool can make a rule and every fool will mind it."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "We may not imagine how our lives could be more frustrating and complex—but Congress can." —Cullen Hightower

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MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS OF A FEATHER

M	U	R	O	L	I	E	B	Y	V	S	Q	N	K	H
E	B	M	W	E	T	Y	W	T	R	O	L	Q	J	G
E	B	A	Y	O	G	F	W	U	R	P	U	N	K	I
G	D	T	B	Z	L	D	U	X	V	I	S	Q	O	M
K	I	T	G	T	E	L	E	T	L	E	E	C	A	Y
W	U	R	S	T	H	G	I	L	F	N	S	Q	P	N
L	J	E	H	C	A	N	A	P	F	A	W	H	F	E
C	R	S	A	Y	X	V	U	M	S	V	H	O	Q	P
C	N	S	D	R	I	B	K	C	U	L	P	S	D	M
K	J	H	F	E	C	G	N	I	T	L	O	M	B	Z
Y	X	V	U	T	R	N	O	I	N	I	P	Q	P	O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Birds	Flight	Pillow	Shaft
Crest	Mattress	Pinion	Tuft
Down	Molting	Pluck	Vane
Fledge	Panache	Plumage	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		–		29
÷		÷		÷	
	+		+		6
+		+		–	
	–		x		6
11		11		1	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 9

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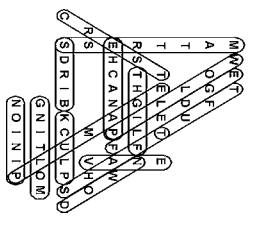
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	1		11		11
6	6	x	8	–	9
	–		+		+
6	1	+	3	+	2
	÷		÷		÷
29	7	–	9	x	4

New Year, new dog

What's on your list of New Year's resolutions? If you own a dog, I'll bet one of those resolutions runs along the lines of "Make Fido behave better." Maybe your dog is well-behaved in general but needs improvement in one area or another (don't we all).

This month I'll go through a few basic commands every dog should know, and recommend a few books that will provide more detailed training information.

First and foremost, however, you must teach yourself a valuable skill, and that is "patience." All dogs can be trained well; some learn faster than others. Never give up or get impatient or angry with your dog. Keep training sessions short—between 15 and 30 minutes per day.

The first basic command is "heel"—telling the dog to walk at your side. Train on a walk down the sidewalk, or pick a spot in the park and walk in circles. Use a secure collar and leash. Hold the end of the leash tightly in your right hand, and guide the leash with your left.

With the dog on your left side, step forward with your right foot and give the command "heel." Tug or lightly snap the leash in the direction you want to go. Your dog should walk calmly next to you, his shoulders and neck aligned with your leg.

Whenever he achieves this position, praise your dog. If he pulls away or hangs back, don't yell or say "no," or get angry; tug him back into position and give praise when he reaches it. If he really doesn't want to heel, stop walking, bring him back into position, and start again.

Recommended book: "The American Kennel Club Dog Care & Training," Second Edition (Hungry Minds Inc., $16.99).

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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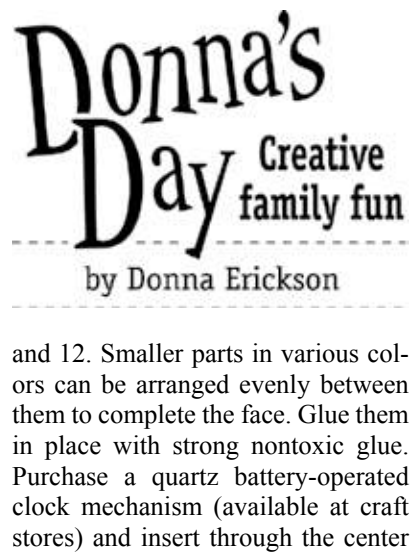
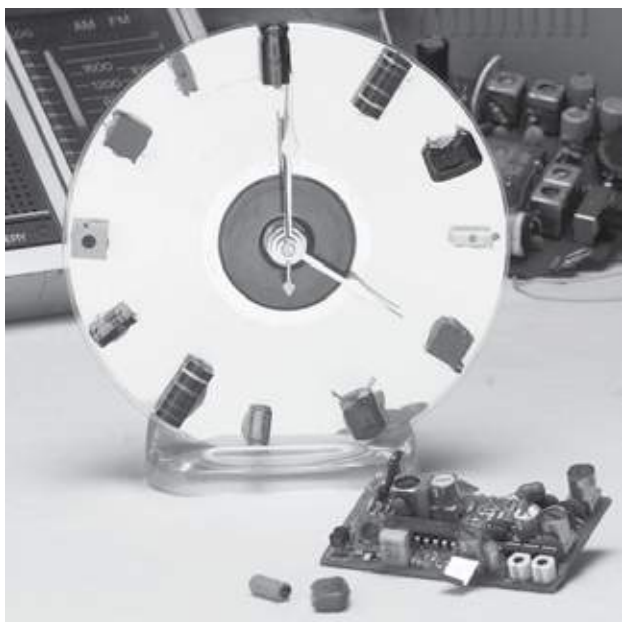
Make techie CD clocks



If you and your older children have always wondered what's inside an old adding machine or transistor radio, or what's behind the face of an alarm clock, give this activity a try. Then turn your find into a one-of-a-kind CD clock. You'll quickly discover that curiosity can stimulate an abundance of creativity.

First, put the machine, such as an old alarm clock, a windup toy or a radio, on a work surface covered with newspaper. With screwdrivers, hammers and pliers, remove the cover of the machine and begin exploring. If the machine has an electrical cord, clip it off for safety's sake. Remove and properly dispose of any old batteries and glass parts.

Try to figure out how the machine works, and enjoy speculating on its mysteries. If the machine has small and sharp gadgets and gizmos, don't leave them for younger kids to explore without adult supervision.



Now, use your finds to make a CD clock that any "techie" would love!

Cover the label of an old CD or DVD you aren't using anymore with a piece of poster board or construction paper cut to size. Glue in place. On the front of the CD, using parts from the insides of the machines or radios you took apart, arrange parts to create the face of a clock. Diodes from radios are especially good for this idea.

Different shapes and sizes can represent the numbers 1 to 12. Choose a specific shape for the hours of 3, 6, 9 and 12. Smaller parts in various colors can be arranged evenly between them to complete the face. Glue them in place with strong nontoxic glue. Purchase a quartz battery-operated clock mechanism (available at craft stores) and insert through the center hole of the CD.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Man sentenced in Cruise extortion try

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who tried to extort $1.3 million from Tom Cruise in exchange for stolen wedding photographs of the actor and Katie Holmes was sentenced to two years probation Thursday.

Marc Lewis Gittleman, 34, also was fined $3,000. He pleaded guilty Sept. 21 to interstate transportation of stolen property.

Gittleman, a computer technician, told the court he was sorry.

"I brought unimaginable shame upon myself and my family," Gittleman said. "I'll be working the rest of my life to make it right."

Gittleman had no prior criminal record and is receiving counseling for depression, his attorney Richard Hirsch said. Hirsch described the crime as an impulsive act that showed "colossal bad judgment."

AP

Tom Cruise, left, and Katie Holmes arrive at the premiere of "Mad Money" in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008.

U.S. District Judge George King and attorneys for both sides agreed that a prison sentence was not needed.

Gittleman wrote a letter of apology to Cruise's attorney, Hirsch said. Cruise was not in court.

Court documents show Gittleman obtained thousands of photos from a damaged hard drive that was brought to his workplace by a photographer.

He then contacted David Hans Schmidt, 47, who was known for peddling nude photos and sex tapes of celebrities, and e-mailed Cruise demanding $1.3 million to keep the pictures private. Cruise's representatives called authorities, who set up a sting operation to catch Gittleman and Schmidt.

Schmidt pleaded guilty to transmitting threatening communications with intent to extort. He hanged himself in September.

Ex-'Lost' star Rodriguez freed from jail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Lost" star Michelle Rodriguez has found her way out of jail. Rodriguez was released from a Los Angeles County women's jail Wednesday after serving 18 days of a 180-day sentence for violating probation in a drunken driving case.

Rodrigues

She was released early under a program that deals with jail overcrowding by allowing nonviolent female inmates to serve as little as 10 percent of their sentence.

The same thing happened two years ago when Rodriguez served just one day of a 60-day jail sentence for probation violation.

As many as 50 women a day are released early, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

"She was treated the same way we do with all females because of the extent of overcrowding," he said.

Rodriguez was sentenced in October for failing to prove she had done community service and for drinking while wearing an alcohol monitoring device.

The judge who sentenced Rodriguez ordered that she serve the entire sentence. The judge was consulted about the early release but the Sheriff's Department had the final say when jail safety was involved, Whitmore said.

Tina Brown writing Clinton book

NEW YORK (AP)—Another Clinton book is on the way, this time by the best-selling author and former editor of The New Yorker, Tina Brown. "The Clinton Chronicles," to be released in 2010 by the Broadway Doubleday Publishing Group, will be Brown's first book since "The Diana Chronicles," a biography of Princess Diana which came out last year and has more than 300,000 copies in print.

"The Clintons have a political and emotional partnership that continues to defy all expectations," Brown said Thursday. "As I did with `The Diana Chronicles,' I plan to explore not just the enthralling story of the Clintons themselves but the social, political and media context of the times."

Brown's book on Diana was the rare work about the late princess to sell strongly in recent years, with endless books already out. Her challenge is just as high for the Clintons, the subject of countless biographies, including several that came out last year as Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton began her run for the presidency.

None of those books, including releases by such well-known authors as Carl Bernstein and Sally Bedell Smith, caught on widely with the public or had any noticeable impact on Clinton's campaign.

Brown

"When we published the Diana book, nobody believed there could possibly be any new insights; we had to more arm-twisting than I could possibly tell you just to get people to read the book," Doubleday President and Publisher Stephen Rubin told The Associated Press. "Of course, they were all wrong and Tina did indeed find fresh insights. I believe Tina will do exactly the same with the Clintons."

As with Princess Diana, Brown has personal memories to share about the Clintons, whom she has met and openly admired, including a famous portrait of President Clinton that she wrote for The New Yorker after attending a White House dinner.

For those of us who had dismissed him ... see him instead as his guests do: a man in a dinner jacket with more heat than any star in the room (or, for that matter, at the multiplex)," she wrote. "His height, his sleekness, his newly cropped, iron-filing hair, and the intensity of his blue eyes project a kind of avid inclusiveness that encircles every jaded celebrity he passes. He is vividly in the present tense and dares you to join him there."

Donda West likely died of heart disease

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West's mother most likely died of heart disease coupled with complications after plastic surgery, but the exact cause of death can't be known, coroner's officials said Thursday.

Donda West, 58, died Nov. 10 at a Los Angeles-area hospital, a day after she had breast reduction, tummy tuck and liposuction procedures.

A long autopsy report noted that West had coronary artery disease, including blockages of 50 percent to 70 percent in two arteries. The 5-foot-2-inch, 188-pound woman also was overweight and had developed several complications after surgery, including bronchopneumonia in one lung, according to the report.

The investigation found "therapeutic levels of medication" in West's body but no unusually high levels and no internal bleeding.

"It is my opinion Ms. West died from some pre-existing coronary artery disease and multiple postoperative factors following surgery," Dr. Louis A. Pena, a deputy medical examiner, stated in the report.

A representative for Kanye West declined to comment.

Asked whether Donda West would still be alive if she hadn't undergone the elective procedures, Ed Winter, assistant chief of the Los Angeles County coroner's office, said: "She could, possibly. But she could have also died because of pre-existing cardiac issues."

Studies have shown serious complications from plastic surgery are rare, with death occurring in 1 in 58,810 procedures.

Dr. Jan Adams, who operated on West, has denied any wrongdoing. Adams has repeatedly suggested other causes of death including heart attack, pulmonary embolism or accidental overdose of painkillers prescribed after the cosmetic surgery.

"The coroner's report confirms what we have always believed. Until further discussion with the West family we have no additional comment," Adams said in a brief statement e-mailed to The Associated Press.

Adams, a minor celebrity in his own right, has appeared as a plastic surgery expert on such shows as "Oprah," and "Entertainment Tonight." He also had his own show on the Discovery Health channel and markets a line of skin care products. He is the author of "Everything Women of Color Should Know About Plastic Surgery."

Husband's anniversary wish is to give wife a real wedding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our 40th wedding anniversary will soon be here, and my wife, "Nancy," and I are considering renewing our vows. We were married when I was in the service during the Vietnam War, so we had only a rushed ceremony with a justice of the peace.

I would like a full-blown wedding for my dear wife. I picture Nancy walking down the aisle wearing her white gown, looking as beautiful as the day we were first married. My children, now adults, think this is unnecessary and a waste of money. (We don't have much—we're on Social Security.)

I think my wife deserves the wedding she never had. Nancy has been through so much stress with all the surgeries I've had. I feel the love of my life and mother of my children deserves the wedding she was dreaming of. What do you think?

—STEVE W. IN PHOENIX

DEAR STEVE: Frankly, I think what you're considering is a beautiful gesture, but you have already given your wife the kind of MARRIAGE most women dream of—a lifetime with a husband who demonstrates his caring and devotion. If you can afford the kind of renewal of vows you're considering and Nancy can still fit into that dress, then go for it. However, under no circumstances should you spend more than you can afford.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend "Julie's" 13-year-old daughter, "Marci," used to be a little overweight, but she has recently lost most of the extra pounds. Julie keeps telling Marci how great she looks "now." (I never heard her tell her daughter that she looked great when she was heavier.) I compliment Marci by telling her she looks terrific, but that I always thought she was beautiful—no matter what her weight was.

In this day and age of eating disorders in young girls, what is the proper way to offer a compliment when a teenage girl loses weight so that she won't go overboard from suddenly hearing a lot of praise?

—CONCERNED FRIEND IN DEERFIELD, MASS.

DEAR CONCERNED: Your way. To do otherwise could cause a girl to develop an eating disorder, if she doesn't already have one. You should also compliment her on her other good qualities because it's important that young women feel valued for more than the number on their bathroom scale or their dress size.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman, dating a man my age. "Jack" and I are in the entertainment industry. (I'm a dance instructor, and he's a musician.)

When I have a cold, Jack refuses to see me until I am completely over it. He says he doesn't want to get sick. It has been a week since I've seen him. How does this strike you in terms of commitment, marriage, living together, being together as a couple?

I understand that Jack doesn't want to catch my cold, but we're a couple! It feels very weird to me, as though I'm not important to him. What's your take on this?

—IN QUARANTINE IN MORRO BAY

DEAR IN QUARANTINE: If Jack plays a wind instrument, a cold could affect his ability to work. Another possibility might be that colds may hit him harder and last longer than they do you. Your boyfriend could also be germ-phobic or commitment-phobic.

I wish I could give you a conclusive answer, but I'm afraid you'll have to wait until you're no longer contagious, then "catch" it from Jack.

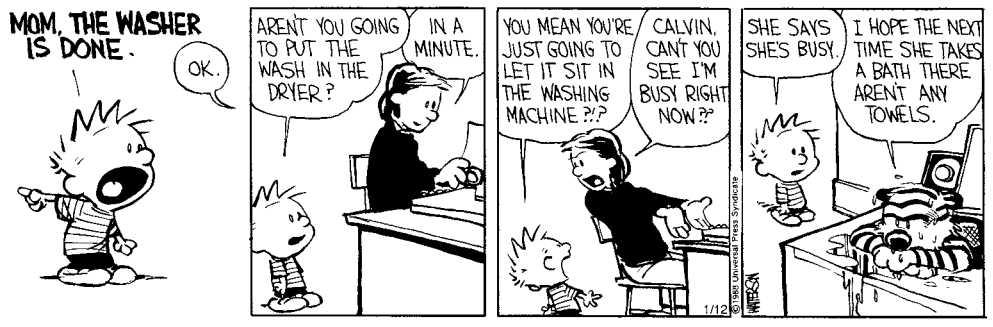
■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, THE WASHER IS DONE.
OK.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO PUT THE WASH IN THE DRYER?
IN A MINUTE.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET IT SIT IN THE WASHING MACHINE?!?
CALVIN, CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW?!
SHE SAYS SHE'S BUSY.
I HOPE THE NEXT TIME SHE TAKES A BATH THERE AREN'T ANY TOWELS.
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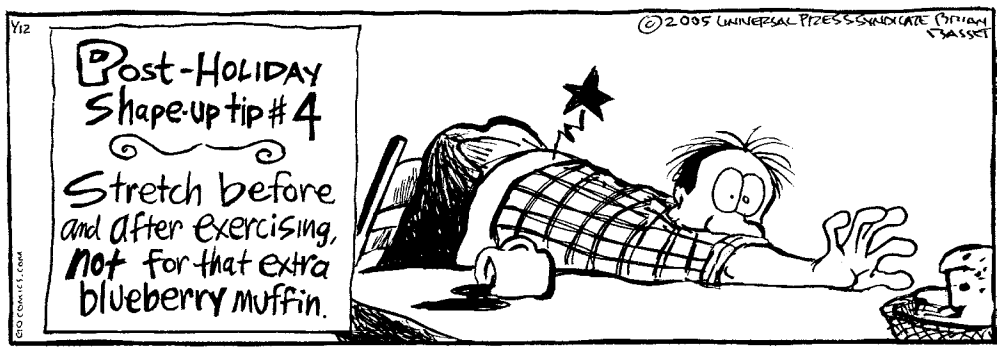
1/12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Y12
©2005 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE Bryan Basset
Post-Holiday Shape-up tip #4
Stretch before and after exercising, not for that extra blueberry muffin.
©bbasset.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

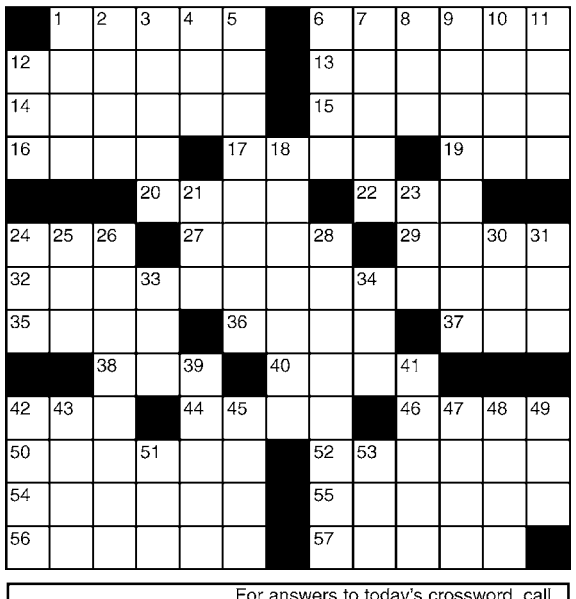
ACROSS
1 Realty statistic
6 Catchphrase
12 Shocked
13 Only U.S. capital sharing no letters with its state
14 Nap
15 Incense
16 French bridge
17 Canoodle
19 Bushy clump
20 Verdi masterpiece
22 The girl
24 Eggs
27 Klingon aboard the Enterprise
29 Somewhere out there
32 Produce purchase
35 Storybook villain
36 Suitable
37 Blazed a trail
38 Modern-day evidence
40 "Zounds!"
42 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —"
44 Measures, in music
46 Kind of hairdo
50 Gamer's picture
52 Having a nimbus
54 Minimum
55 Dump
56 Shackles' site
57 Pastoral work

DOWN
1 Exchange premium
2 "Big Brother" host
3 Selassie worshipper
4 "Guinness Book" suffix
5 Tie
6 Detail, for short
7 Sausages, often
8 "— the fields we go"
9 Appreciative
10 Golden Fleece craft
11 Requirement
12 Cleo's slayer
18 Before
21 Jima preceder
23 Chapeau
24 Discoverer's cry
25 What couch potatoes do
26 First beast in the dictionary
28 Harmonic arrangement
30 Expert
31 Roulette bet
33 Lair
34 Afternoon get-together
39 Humiliate
41 Waste time
42 Tibetan monk
43 Squared
45 Decoupage, et al.
47 Ninny
48 Verifiable
49 Strange
51 — Aviv
53 Moreover

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	N	T	■	G	Y	R	E	■	B	O	O	T
B	O	Y	■	L	E	A	P	■	R	I	P	A
C	A	P	R	I	A	T	I	■	A	L	S	O
S	H	O	O	T	S	■	T	A	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	C	T	■	H	U	D	S	O	N
W	A	T	C	H	■	S	E	X	■	E	W	E
H	U	S	H	■	K	I	T	■	M	E	E	T
I	R	A	■	F	A	X	■	C	U	R	D	S
G	A	R	N	E	R	■	R	A	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	D	A	■	I	N	T	I	M	E
B	R	I	G	■	J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R
O	U	C	H	■	A	R	G	O	■	F	R	O
A	B	E	T	■	N	E	S	T	■	Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 1-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Lawrence, 20; Melanie Chisholm, 34; Rob Zombie, 42; Rush Limbaugh, 57

Happy Birthday: You may find it difficult to express yourself this year. Rid yourself of whatever is holding you back, whether a person or a circumstance. Let go of the past and you will swiftly move into the future. There will be plenty of opportunity around you so take advantage of it. Your numbers are 6, 19, 32, 38, 46, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your emotions may get the better of you today. Consider anyone who is being evasive as keeping secrets from you. Don't overreact but walk away if a situation doesn't feel right. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Resolve any pending problems so you can get on with your day and have some fun. You will meet someone who will spark your imagination about what changes you can make to your life. Don't go overboard. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may feel obligated to take on a responsibility that doesn't belong to you. Before you spend precious time doing someone else's job, consider how much of your own work is left to do. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A chance to improve your lifestyle or discover something new will help you secure your personal position. Put work aside and spend time with the people in your life who count. Emotional matters can be resolved and financial gains made. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may feel like spending money or playing a game of chance but avoid both unless you have cash to burn. Focus on yourself. Self-pampering at home or spending the day with someone you love can be done relatively cheaply. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You are up for personal changes today. Don't let your temper get the better of you. You will be no match for someone who feels neglected or who has had a change of heart. Put your efforts into fixing up a space at home that you can call your own. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel will lead to some very important information. Activities involving lots of people will give you a chance to run your ideas by others and get feedback. A partnership or a proposal is likely to develop today. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You usually like to do things for yourself but today someone will offer you help—don't turn it down. So much more can be accomplished if you work in unison with someone who has similar goals or interests. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will meet with as much opposition as you do approval today. Don't waste your time trying to persuade people who won't budge. Instead, work out options with the people who show an interest. Don't let your emotions rule. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be the go-to person, the one with all the great suggestions but don't let anyone talk you into putting cash on the table for someone else's benefit. Handouts will only lead to extra work, worry and possibly a loss of friendship. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be confused. Listen to what's being said and, if it still doesn't make sense, move on. It's not worth your time or your energy if whoever you are dealing with doesn't have his or her plans well-laid out. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will find it difficult to control your reactions to personal matters that flare up. It may end up being a costly day if you don't say no to someone who is pestering you. Something is going on behind your back so, for now, sit tight. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer, a wanderer and an entrepreneur. You are creative and original, always chasing the unfamiliar and unique.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7						2	
4				5				1
			6	8	7			
		5				6		
	6	4		9		8	3	
		1				4		
			5	1	9			
8				2				7
	5						6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	6	5	8	2	3	1	7
3	2	7	4	9	1	8	6	5
1	5	8	7	3	6	9	2	4
9	3	4	2	1	7	5	8	6
6	8	2	3	5	9	7	4	1
5	7	1	8	6	4	2	9	3
8	1	3	6	2	5	4	7	9
2	4	9	1	7	3	6	5	8
7	6	5	9	4	8	1	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS **Solution: 6 letters**

P	Y	S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	H	S	E	D	D
G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	E	E	M	R	E	O
T	T	O	P	R	E	U	N	I	T	E	A	D	T	N
N	N	C	T	P	E	P	R	O	U	D	I	M	S	A
E	U	T	O	E	R	N	N	S	L	C	L	I	I	T
M	O	S	A	A	C	E	G	U	A	R	D	S	L	I
T	C	B	D	B	S	T	C	T	S	I	(F)	S	N	O
R	H	P	R	N	M	T	I	I	H	(L)	L	I	E	N
A	O	A	E	A	E	O	H	N	(A)	E	P	O	H	S
P	M	F	N	A	N	I	C	(G)	G	T	K	N	R	G
E	E	A	O	K	C	C	R	Y	I	L	I	N	R	S
D	R	E	E	A	S	E	H	F	M	L	O	O	A	E
U	A	S	R	T	N	R	U	T	E	R	U	R	N	R
T	H	E	A	R	T	N	I	A	T	P	A	C	Y	V
Y	S	N	O	R	D	A	U	Q	S	B	R	A	V	E

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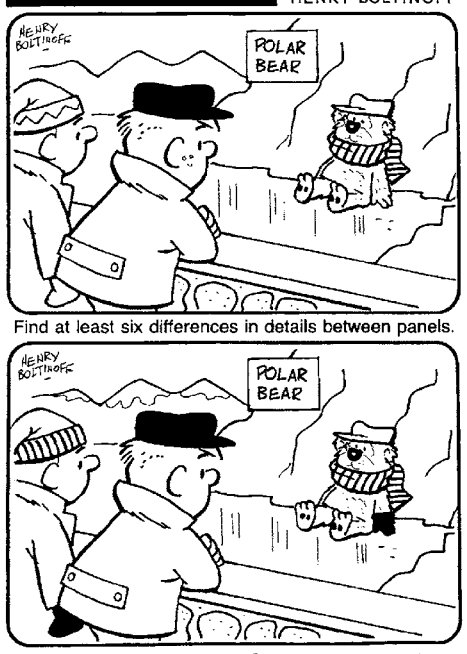
Appreciation, Army, Branch, Brave, Captain, Care, Coast, Combat, Country, Dedication, Defense, Department, Donations, Duty, Enlisted, Flag, Friends, Glory, Gratitude, Groups, Guards, Heart, Home, Hope, Light, Mail, Mission, Notes, Peace, Protecting, Proud, Rank, Return, Reunite, Sailors, Salute, Serve, Share, Soldiers, Squadron, Strength, Team, Thanks

Yesterday's Answer: Homeopathy

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6888. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Boy's hat is different. 2. Bear is wearing mittens. 3. Boy's glove is black. 4. Mountains are snow-capped. 5. Boy's freckles are missing. 6. Bear has three toes.

Wishing Well®

3	7	2	6	7	5	6	8	6	3	4	5	2
Y	K	Y	T	E	S	H	E	I	O	R	P	O
7	5	4	6	7	2	7	5	7	2	7	3	5
E	R	E	N	P	U	Y	E	O	F	U	U	A
8	5	3	7	5	4	2	8	5	7	2	8	4
N	D	A	R	H	S	L	E	O	D	O	R	T
6	4	8	7	8	5	8	5	8	3	4	7	2
K	R	G	R	Y	P	I	E	S	R	I	E	U
3	4	2	8	7	2	8	2	6	3	7	6	4
E	C	R	R	A	I	E	S	Y	E	M	O	T
8	4	7	4	8	6	4	8	6	4	6	3	2
N	I	S	O	E	U	N	W	N	L	G	S	H
3	4	8	4	8	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3
T	I	E	F	D	E	T	E	E	M	D	E	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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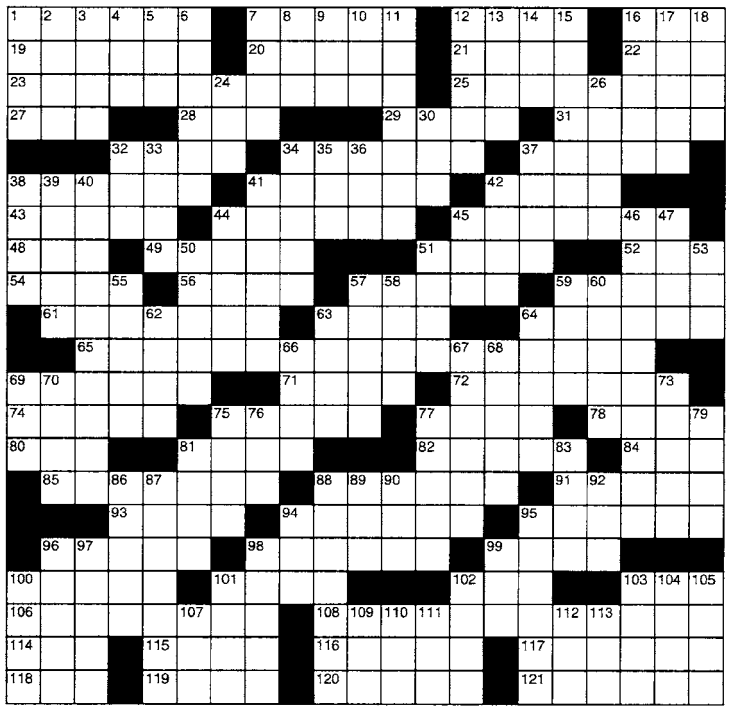
Super Crossword

TAKE A HIKE!

ACROSS
1 Surrounded by
7 Nimoy role
12 Clout a cad
16 — Vicente, Brazil
19 Stew ingredient
20 — firma
21 Top-of-the-line
22 Prom wear
23 Start of a remark by 108 Across
25 Reserve
27 Rep. opponent
28 Savor the squid
29 Pin part
31 Powell or Quinn
32 Orwell's "Animal —"
34 Chastised, with "out"
37 Nick of "I Love Trouble"
38 Archaic affliction
41 Cotton cloth
42 — tape
43 Cognizant
44 Spoil
45 Part 2 of remark
48 Deface
49 Bunch of bees
51 Bulldog feature
52 Shady character?
54 English statesman
56 A deadly sin
57 Masters' "— River Anthology"
59 Cary of "Hot Shots"
61 Diva Renata
63 Trigger Trigger?
64 Game-show giveaways
65 Part 3 of remark
69 With 6 Down, John Cleese sitcom
71 Grapefruit serving
72 Tableland
74 Tex-Mex favorite
75 Sturdy fabric
77 Goes (for)
78 556, to Flavius
80 TV's "Top — "
81 Trunk, in Tewkesbury
82 "She — Yellow Ribbon" ('49 film)
84 Holidayless mo.
85 End of remark
88 Brewer or Wright
91 — Park, NJ
93 Birthday buy
94 Danson's "Cheers" role
95 Greek poet
96 Emerson's middle name
98 Word in a Hawthorne title
99 Sell
100 Rock's — Trick
101 A swan was her swain
102 "The Gold Bug" author
103 "— been ages!"
106 Notable
108 Speaker of remark
114 Plastic — Band
115 Sausage segment
116 Proofreader's mark
117 "Bewitched" role
118 Energy
119 Signor Ferrari
120 Pound the podium
121 Sheena of song

DOWN
1 Copied
2 Budge
3 List entry
4 — es Salaam
5 Pig's digs
6 See 69 Across
7 Dele dele
8 — diem
9 Galena, e.g.
10 Dernier —
11 Disputed territory
12 Bar food?
13 Burden
14 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
15 NBC logo
16 Circus prop
17 Heroic Murphy
18 The yoke's on them
24 Overdramatic thespian
26 Maestro Georg
30 Velvet finish?
32 In place of
33 Olympic hawk
34 Card game
35 Kreskin's letters
36 Stout relative
37 Worthless
38 Temptress
39 Watch for
40 Gave up
41 Pugilist Hagler
42 Time to crow?
44 Black and white delight
45 Wine and dine
46 Hillary's home
47 Mirth
50 Author Eudora
51 Victor of "Papillon"
53 Mag. submissions
55 Govt. security
57 Slosh the schnapps
58 Dragon of song
59 Part of Q.E.D.
60 Resided
62 — Spumante
63 Circus barker
64 Part of a process
66 Voucher
67 Block
68 Marine leader?
69 TV watchdog
70 At the drop of —
73 Soft-palate extension
75 "Come Softly —" ('59 song)
76 Distress
77 Buck or Jesse
79 Violinist Oistrakh
81 South African activist
83 Exiled dictator
86 Renown
87 Frog-to-be
88 Hot stuff
89 Building wing
90 Caviar
92 Gridiron position
94 Beyond balmy
95 Comic Herman
96 Complain
97 Famed fabulist
98 Little lizard
99 Harry — Zell
100 Karate blow
101 City on the Danube
102 Rose or Rozelle
103 "— You Babe" ('65 song)
104 Archaic preposition
105 Cartoonist Lee
107 — Tin Tin
109 Benzene source
110 Significant years
111 Donkey doc
112 Cell stuff
113 Drivers' lics., e.g.



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ART: Where is the world-famous Prado museum located?
2. ANATOMY: Where are the muscles known as triceps found in the body?
3. ADVERTISEMENTS: What breakfast cereal did Sonny the Cuckoo Bird promote?
4. NATURAL WORLD: Where would stalagmites be found in a natural formation?
5. GEOGRAPHY: The kingdom of Lesotho is an enclave of what country?
6. SCIENCE: What was the first elementary particle to be discovered?
7. MUSIC: What is the national anthem of Canada?
8. COMPUTERS: What does the acronym DOS stand for?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "I worked my way up from nothing to a state of extreme poverty."
10. LANGUAGE: What is an atelier?

Answers

1. Madrid, Spain
2. Upper arm
3. Cocoa Puffs
4. The cone-shaped deposits rise from the floor of a cave
5. South Africa
6. The electron
7. "O Canada"
8. Disk Operating System
9. Groucho Marx
10. Artist's studio

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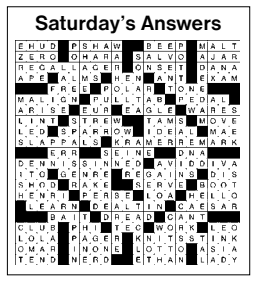
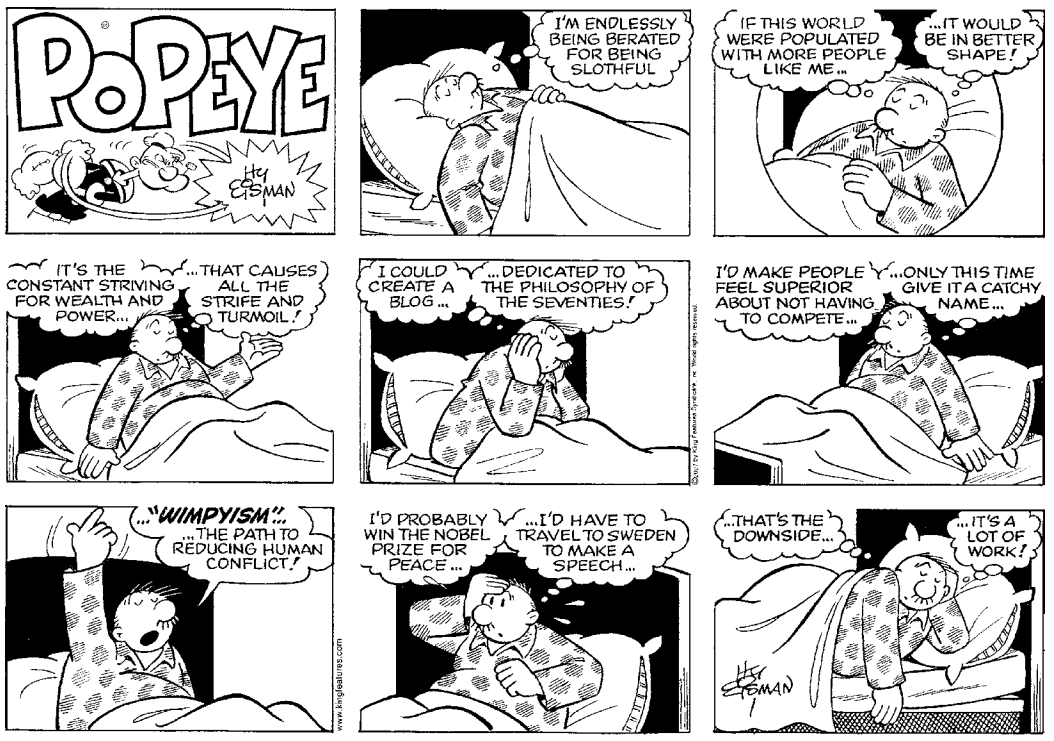
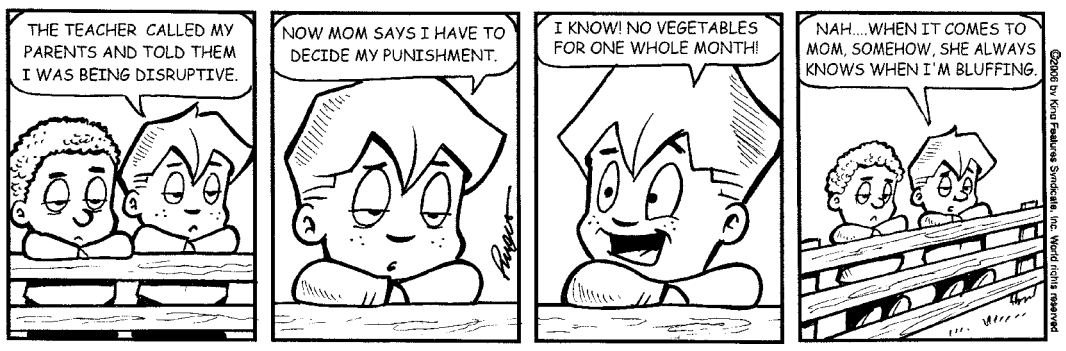
Saturday's Answers




POPEYE
Hey Eggman
I'M ENDLESSLY BEING BERATED FOR BEING SLOTHFUL
IF THIS WORLD WERE POPULATED WITH MORE PEOPLE LIKE ME...
...IT WOULD BE IN BETTER SHAPE!
IT'S THE CONSTANT STRIVING FOR WEALTH AND POWER...
...THAT CAUSES ALL THE STRIFE AND TURMOIL!
I COULD CREATE A BLOG...
...DEDICATED TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SEVENTIES!
I'D MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SUPERIOR ABOUT NOT HAVING TO COMPETE...
...ONLY THIS TIME GIVE IT A CATCHY NAME...
...."WIMPYISM"... ...THE PATH TO REDUCING HUMAN CONFLICT!
I'D PROBABLY WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE...
...I'D HAVE TO TRAVEL TO SWEDEN TO MAKE A SPEECH...
...THAT'S THE DOWNSIDE...
...IT'S A LOT OF WORK!
Hey Eggman
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps


THE TEACHER CALLED MY PARENTS AND TOLD THEM I WAS BEING DISRUPTIVE.
NOW MOM SAYS I HAVE TO DECIDE MY PUNISHMENT.
I KNOW! NO VEGETABLES FOR ONE WHOLE MONTH!
NAH....WHEN IT COMES TO MOM, SOMEHOW, SHE ALWAYS KNOWS WHEN I'M BLUFFING.
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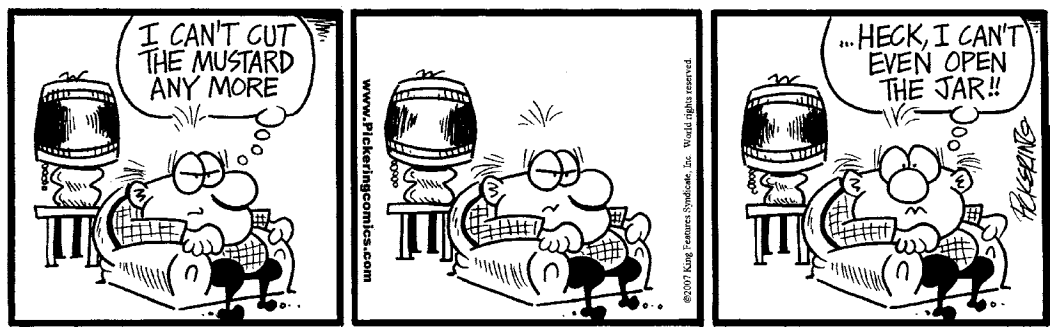
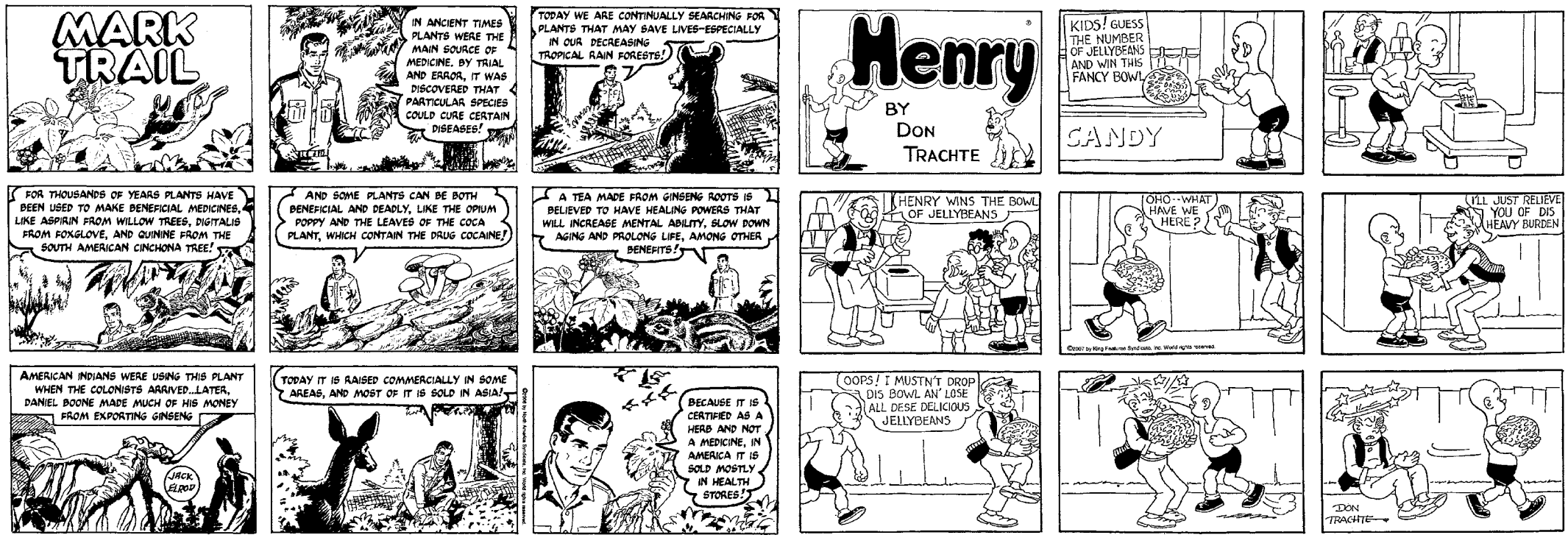
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering


I CAN'T CUT THE MUSTARD ANY MORE
www.Pickeringcomics.com
©2007 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
...HECK, I CAN'T EVEN OPEN THE JAR!!


MARK TRAIL
IN ANCIENT TIMES PLANTS WERE THE MAIN SOURCE OF MEDICINE. BY TRIAL AND ERROR, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT PARTICULAR SPECIES COULD CURE CERTAIN DISEASES!
TODAY WE ARE CONTINUALLY SEARCHING FOR PLANTS THAT MAY SAVE LIVES—ESPECIALLY IN OUR DECREASING TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS!
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS PLANTS HAVE BEEN USED TO MAKE BENEFICIAL MEDICINES, LIKE ASPIRIN FROM WILLOW TREES, DIGITALIS FROM FOXGLOVE, AND QUININE FROM THE SOUTH AMERICAN CINCHONA TREE!
AND SOME PLANTS CAN BE BOTH BENEFICIAL AND DEADLY, LIKE THE OPIUM POPPY AND THE LEAVES OF THE COCA PLANT, WHICH CONTAIN THE DRUG COCAINE!
A TEA MADE FROM GINSENG ROOTS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HEALING POWERS THAT WILL INCREASE MENTAL ABILITY, SLOW DOWN AGING AND PROLONG LIFE, AMONG OTHER BENEFITS!
AMERICAN INDIANS WERE USING THIS PLANT WHEN THE COLONISTS ARRIVED...LATER, DANIEL BOONE MADE MUCH OF HIS MONEY FROM EXPORTING GINSENG
JACK ELROD
TODAY IT IS RAISED COMMERCIALLY IN SOME AREAS, AND MOST OF IT IS SOLD IN ASIA!
BECAUSE IT IS CERTIFIED AS A HERB AND NOT A MEDICINE, IN AMERICA IT IS SOLD MOSTLY IN HEALTH STORES!
Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
KIDS! GUESS THE NUMBER OF JELLYBEANS AND WIN THIS FANCY BOWL
CANDY
HENRY WINS THE BOWL OF JELLYBEANS
OHO--WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
I'LL JUST RELIEVE YOU OF DIS HEAVY BURDEN
©2007 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
OOPS! I MUSTN'T DROP DIS BOWL AN' LOSE ALL DESE DELICIOUS JELLYBEANS
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment for rent: 2br, 1bt, 24hrs water, Koblerville • $230/month-no deposit. Tel.: 288-0728 look for Edson

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRER (ST 7224)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Phillip A. Fejeran dba J&J Tire Shop @898-0309.

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1 SUPERVISOR (ST 7225)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; employer provided workers compensation & medical insurance & self arranged transportation to & from jobsite. Contact: Bisness Mami Saipan Inc. dba Mid Pac Micronesia @234-0475.

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1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (ST 7226)
Salary:$3.55-$4.60/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (ST 7227)
Salary:$3.55-$4.35/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7228)
Salary:$1,000.00-$1,700.00/ monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Vestcor Real Estate, Ltd. @322-3797.

---

3 COOK (ST 7229)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free (1 or 2 duty meal); medical & workers compensation provided. Repatriation by employer. Contact: Yano Enterprises, Inc. dba Kinpachi Restaurant @234-6900.

---

1 DATA ENTRY CLERK (ST 7230)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food & workers compensation. Contact: Tinian Real Estate Investment LLC @433-2274.

---

1 CARPENTER (ST 7231)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; own provided food; free power & water; insurance; WWC & provided transportation from barracks to jobsite. Contact: Fausto V. Supnet dba Supnet House Rental @433-0004.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7232)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing & free food. Contact: Eric A. Borja @433-2593/285-2234.

---

1 FARMER (ST 7233)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: CNMI tax. Contact: Martin DLC. Atalig @433-2577.

---

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (ST 7234)
Salary:$9.00-$12.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing. Contact: Ricardo T. Guerrero dba Western Pacific Electric (MIC) Inc. @287-2436/433-2108.

---

1 ASSISTANT MANAGER (ST 7235)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: By self housing; by self food; CNMI tax & workers compensation. Contact: ML Investment Inc. dba Sun Plaza Gift Shop @433-8866.

---

1 FARMER (ST 7236)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food & workman compensation. Contact: Ignacio K Quichocho @433-3565.

---

1 CARPENTER (ST 7237)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workman compensation & medical. Contact: Three Way Int'l Inc. @433-0004.

---

1 (BAKERY) MANAGER (ST 7238)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

2 ASST. MANAGER (ST 7239)
Salary:$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

3 COOK (ST 7240)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $50.00/housing allowance; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

3 KITCHEN HELPER/FOOD PREPARER (ST 7241)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $50.00/ housing allowance; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce
Coordinator

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for a methodical and organized individual with initiative and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Job duties include:

- Performance of general office skills
- Ability to analyze and critique legislation, letters, and other documents
- Ability to work and communicate with various governmental agencies
- Provision of direct assistance to multiple Chamber committees
- Preparation of financial invoices; recordation of financial transactions
- Management of up-to-date, accurate, and organized files for committees, planning meetings, special projects, and workshops
- Supporting the Executive Director, Board of Directors, committees, and members

This is a highly demanding and challenging position. Successful applicants must be adept at working and communicating with the public, must be able to handle many projects simultaneously, and must be able to take initiative and work independently under the general direction of the Executive Director.

Minimum requirements:

- U.S. citizenship
- Excellent work ethic
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and own working vehicle
- Flexibility in work schedule
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English
- Competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable

Salary commensurate with experience. Application deadline is **Friday, January 18, 2008**. Application form available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or online at www.saipanchamber.com.

WHATZIT Solution:
Bare minimum

***NEW* Rattan Furniture**
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791, 433-9616, 285-7446

PSYCHIC GABRIELA REUNITES LOVERS
PSYCHIC GABRIELA IS A GOD GIFTED HEALER AND MIRACLE WORKER; REUNITES LOVERS; SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS GUARANTEED, 26-YEARS EXPERIENCE; REMOVE ALL NEGATIVITY; NEVER FAILED; CALLED ALL ENEMIES BY NAME; FREE READING. CALL 214-586-5685

Name: Maria Theresa Poblete Camacho and Perfecto Cerniaz Poblete
Address: P.O. Box 5621 CHRB, Granada Dr., Kagman 2 Village, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 256-8747 home; (670) 237-3670 work

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0013
TRISHA DIANNE POBLETE, A Minor Child By:	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
MARIA THERESA POBLETE CAMACHO AND PERFECTO CERNIAZ POBLETE Petitioner(s).	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Medical Profession Licensing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 3:00pm on Saipan**. The meeting will be held at the conference room at HCPLB's office located in Bldg. #1336 Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (11/29/07 & 12/10/07)
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Old Business
A. Review of Draft Regulations for Physicians and Physician Assistants.
VIII. New Business
IX. Applications for Board's Review
A. New/Renewal Applications
1. Dr. Hocog
B. Pending Applications
1. Dr. Cunningham
2. Dr. McCauley
X. Miscellaneous Business
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XII. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Norma S. Ada
Chairwoman

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

POOH mum

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Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	**$10**
• 2nd position	**$3**
• Succeeding positions	**$1**

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	**$13**
• 2nd position	**$4**
• Succeeding positions	**$2**

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	**$5**
• More than 6 positions	**$10**

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 ACCOUNTANT (CASHIER) (ST 7242)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $50.00/housing allowance; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

1 BAKER (ST 7243)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $50.00/housing allowance; one meal free; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: Islands Supply Int'l Inc. @234-0828.

---

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (ST 7244)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; surety bond & worksmen compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing @288-6465.

---

1 (HOUSEWORKER) LIVE-IN-MAID (ST 7245)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; $100.00/food; medical & transportation provided by employer. Contact: Diego B. Songsong @322-6236.

---

1 WAREHOUSE WORKER (ST 7246)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; provided own food; workmen compensation & medical covered. Contact: Foremost Foods Saipan dba Icekiss Inc. @235-2653.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7247)
Salary:$4.00-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; provided own food; workmen compensation & medical covered. Contact: Foremost Foods Saipan dba Icekiss Inc. @235-2653.

---

1 ADMIN. ASSISTANT (ST 7248)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: EQ Construction Corp. @234-8827.

---

1 FARMER (ST 7249)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Felipe A. Roberto @235-1476.

---

24 INSTRUCTORS (POST SECONDARY) (ST 7250)
Salary:$1,800.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ADMINISTRATOR (POST SECONDARY) (ST 7251)
Salary:$1,800.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7252)
Salary:$1,500.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (ST 7253)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 COOK (ST 7254)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

2 SECURITY GUARD (ST 7255)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (ST 7256)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Golden Key Saipan, Inc. dba Rajamsbelle Auto Shop @235-8656.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7257)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing live-in; ER provided food& medical. Contact: Ana C. Celis @288-2622.

---

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (ST 7258)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Golden Crown Corp. dba GCC Carpet & Floor Care @235-3936.

---

1 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER (ST 7259)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

---

2 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7260)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd. @235-6128.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7261)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Catherine Sablan @235-1701.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7262)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Nenita V. Marquez @234-3647.

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1 FARM WORKER (ST 7263)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Jesus T. Guerrero @234-8404.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7264)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductible by employer; $100.00/food deductible by employer; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Jose T. Chong @256-5673.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (ST 7265)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: Suxin Guo Edboi-John Fishing @285-9681.

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1 AUTO BODY REPAIRER (ST 7266)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 HAND PACKER (ST 7267)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 SHIPPING & RECEIVING CLERK (ST 7268)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (ST 7269)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Mohammed Abu B.S. Munshi @285-3445.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7270)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; $100.00/food monthly; self arrange transportation; surety bond & medical. Contact: Richard T. Santos @235-0205.

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1 AIRCON TECHNICIAN (ST 7271)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; transportation; medical & workmen's compensation are employer provided. Contact: JWS Air Conditioning & Ref., Inc. @235-5572/74.

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1 MARKETING MANAGER (ST 7272)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Worksman compensation; sick leave; vacation leave & medical insurance. Contact: Western Sales Trading Co., @322-6031.

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1 BUILDER REPAIR & MAINTENANCE (ST 7273)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food & medical provided. Contact: Marty W.K. Taylor @235-0916.

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1 ADMIN. ASST. (ST 7274)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (ST 7275)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

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1 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER (ST 7276)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Guma Corporation dba Advance Construction Technology @234-5459.

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1 HAND SEWER HELPER (ST 7277)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; provided workers compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Yong Jia Corp. @288-3839.

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1 ARCADE ATTENDANT (ST 7278)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Jimin Enterprises, Inc. dba Grand Poker & Royal Casino @235-3455.

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2 CARPENTER (ST 7279)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (ST 7280)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

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2 MASON (ST 7281)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman compensation; medical & transportation. Contact: Apex Construction, Inc. dba Construction @288-0767.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7282)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Danilo T. Aguilar dba R&B A/C, Refrigeration & Gen. Serv. @234-8801/235-5466.

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1 MANAGER (INSURANCE) (ST 7283)
Salary:$3.55-$15.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical provided. Contact: Traders Insurance Company @234-7788.

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1 SURVEYOR (ST 7284)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Tropex Garden Co., Ltd. @288-7999.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (LIVE IN) (ST 7285)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Deduction $100.00/monthly housing; deduction $100.00/monthly food & medical provided. Contact: Maria Glenn G. and Patricia Lynn A. Mendoza @235-2043.

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Terrell Owens practices for Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens ran routes and caught passes in his return to practice Thursday, showing only a slight limp at times. The All-Pro receiver seems on track to play in the Dallas Cowboys' playoff game against the New York Giants.

Owens, recovering from a sprained left ankle, didn't go against any defenders during the short period of practice open to the media. But he took part in some team drills after that.

While he was taking full strides running routes and making some cuts without any apparent problems, Owens had a slight limp at times when he jogged or walked.

"I thought that he moved well, and ran at the level that we were practicing, and those weren't half-speed," owner Jerry Jones said. "He's in very good spirits, very competitive spirits, very focused on our success here Sunday."

T.O. stopped and spoke with receivers coach Ray Sherman after completing one route. Owens then took off his helmet and could be seen smiling while talking to backup quarterback Brad Johnson.

Seen in the perimeter around the locker room during lunch before practice, Owens appeared to be walking fine, though he said little.

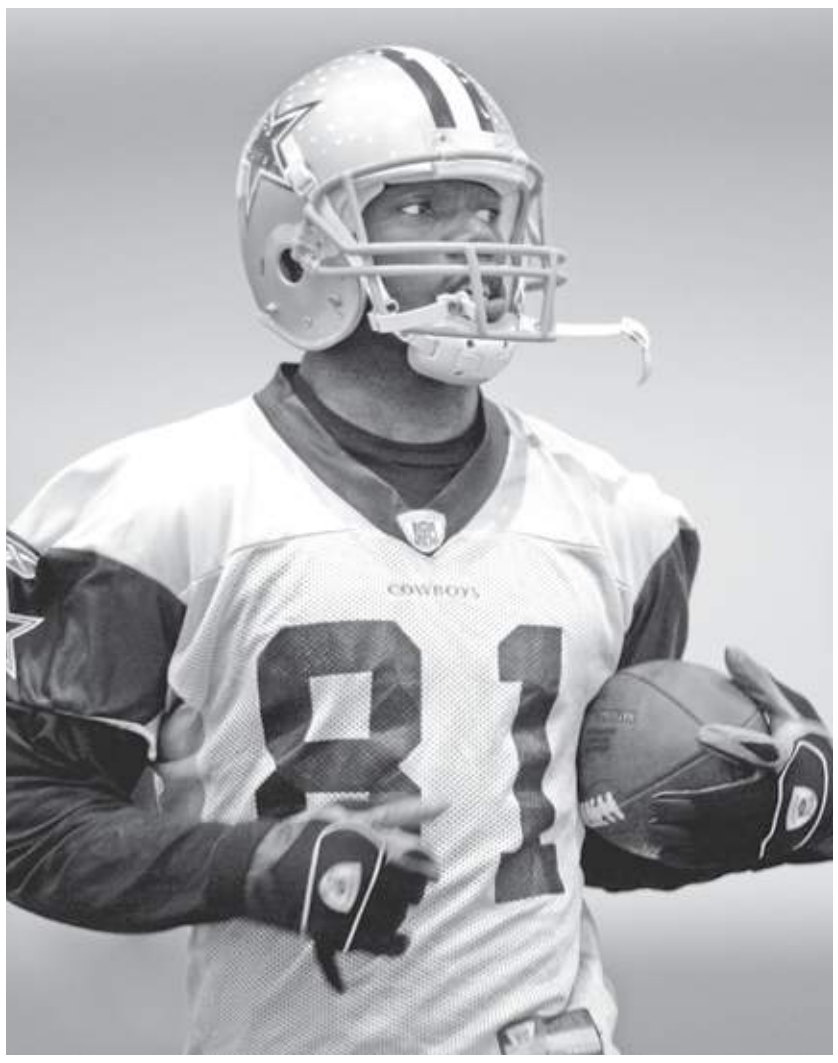
"You're not getting anything out of me," Owens said.

Owens hurt his ankle Dec. 22 in the game at Carolina, and sat out the regular-season finale at Washington. He took part in the team's light walk-through Monday, but didn't practice Wednesday while doing rehabilitation.

"Obviously, he was better today because he practice some. It was limited," coach Wade Phillips.

Phillips insisted that the receiver is still a game-time decision.

"You think he's going to play, you don't think he's going to play, that's where I am. We'll see," Phillips said. "No, I don't think it would be a surprise (if Owens plays), but it would be a nice present."



AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) comes to a stop after making a reception during practice at the Cowboys training facility in Irving, Texas, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008.

Jones said it is a "very legitimate game-time decision" and that one consideration would be if playing could threaten Owens' availability for future playoff games if the Cowboys beat New York.

But Jones then made it clear that, "Sunday is the major point of emphasis, and any decision will be made risking most anything to have success Sunday."

Plus, Jones knows it would be hard to keep Owens out if the receiver wants to play.

"I haven't said `no' to Terrell Owens since I gave him the check," Jones said. "There's no question that he's going to say that he wants to play. ... Terrell knows his situation better than any trainer, or any doctor or certainly than Wade or anybody else. He knows his situation very well, and you're going to have to count on him to use a little bit of judgment."

Fellow receiver Sam Hurd said Owens has spent "like 19 hours out of his day" trying to get back on the field and expects T.O. will play.

"He tells me all the time, opportunities like this don't come around every season, so he wants to take advantage of them," Hurd said. "He believes in this team so much that he wants to get out there and help this team get to the Super Bowl."

Favre leaning toward returning

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—If Brett Favre is leaning toward returning for another season with the Green Bay Packers, he hasn't discussed it yet with his coach.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy hardly seemed convinced comments from Favre to his hometown newspaper on Thursday that he was leaning toward playing another season amounted to an official decision.

"I'm trying not to laugh, but I have not been part of any conversation with Brett on that topic," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "And I think we need to just move on and focus on Seattle, because that's what we are focused on. I'm sure that's what he's focused on."

In a story posted on the Web site of the Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald on Thursday, Favre said he isn't approaching Saturday's playoff game against Seattle like it will be his final game in Green Bay. He seemed more optimistic than in years past about returning.

"For the first time in three years, I haven't thought this could be my last game," Favre told the newspaper. "I would like to continue longer."

Favre's now-annual flirtation with retirement has taken on a life of its own in Wisconsin. He has taken weeks and even months in recent years to make his decision.

While it has been widely assumed he would come back to play next season after having one of the best years of his career, Favre and McCarthy have said the quarterback would wait until after the season to address the issue again.

Favre's favorite receiver, Donald Driver, said Thursday that while he hasn't discussed the topic with Favre, he expected the three-time MVP to return.

"I think he's going to come back," Driver said. "I wouldn't be surprised if he comes back. He's having a great year, so it'd be great to see him come back if he decides to."

McCarthy didn't seem pleased the retirement issue popped up two days before the team's biggest game of the season.

"I don't know anything about it, and I think it's someone just trying to distract my quarterback," McCarthy said.

Favre is not scheduled to speak to reporters before Saturday's game.

Mara withdraws from Falcons' GM search

ATLANTA (AP)—The Falcons lost a candidate in their search for a general manager when Chris Mara of the New York Giants dropped out Thursday.

Mara, the Giants' vice president of player evaluation, withdrew from consideration two days after interviewing with Falcons owner Arthur Blank.

"I have withdrawn my name from consideration for the position of general manager for the Atlanta Falcons," Mara said in a one-paragraph statement released by the Giants. "I want to thank Arthur Blank for his interest in me, and we had a very good discussion earlier this week in Atlanta. However, I am no longer a candidate for the position."

Mara was at least the third candidate interviewed as a possible replacement for current GM Rich McKay, who is being stripped of his authority over personnel matters but was offered a two-year extension to remain as team president through 2010.

Philadelphia general manager Tom Heckert interviewed with the Falcons on Monday, looking into a job that would give him more power. With the Eagles, Heckert defers on personnel decisions to coach Andy Reid.

In addition to Mara, the Falcons met Tuesday with Gene Smith, director of college scouting for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Blank also received permission to meet with Green Bay's Reggie McKenzie and John Schneider, the two highest-ranking officials under Packers GM Ted Thompson.

The Falcons are running a concurrent search for a new coach, though they would prefer to have a general manager in place first.

Since being rebuffed by Bill Parcells, who rejected the chance to take over football operations in Atlanta and instead took a similar job in Miami, the most prominent name to emerge is Southern California coach Pete Carroll.

The Falcons want to speak with Carroll, who is vacationing in Hawaii. He has previously denied any interest in returning to the NFL, having coached the New York Jets and New England Patriots.

If Carroll agrees to an interview, the Falcons likely would offer a chance to both coach and control player personnel decisions.

Bobby Petrino stunningly left for Arkansas with three games left in his first season as Falcons coach, and Emmitt Thomas finished out the year on an interim basis. No one on the current staff is being considered for the permanent job.

In announcing last month that Parcells would not be coming to Atlanta, Blank revealed he also was looking for a new general manager.

RB McFadden in 'rowdy scene' at bar

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Heisman Trophy runner-up Darren McFadden was handcuffed by police and then released without charges after being involved in a "pretty rowdy scene" at a piano bar early Thursday.

Arkansas' All-America running back and at least four others were at the downtown bar, called Ernie Biggs, when a disturbance broke out shortly after midnight, police Lt. Terry Hastings said. A bouncer was hit in the face as he was trying to get the group to leave, Hastings said. A police report did not specify who hit the bouncer.

"There was a whole bunch of people there," Hastings said. "They were inside and it spilled out into the street."

Outside, McFadden was handcuffed by a police officer "because he was agitated and was provoking aggressive behavior inciting the incident," according to the police report.

"We handcuffed him for a few minutes because he was rowdy," Hastings said.

McFadden, who was the only person handcuffed, was released after he calmed down. Hastings said it was routine procedure to handcuff a person to gain control of a situation.

Thursday evening before an appearance at the Little Rock Touchdown Club, where he was to be honored with an award, McFadden declined comment, through a university spokesman.

McFadden's mother, Mini Muhammad, said her son was trying to protect his younger brother, Daryl.

"He wasn't the one that was fighting. It was his little brother—someone had jumped on him," Muhammad said. "He was agitated because his brother had a bloody nose.

"Darren was not fighting—please make that be known," she added.

Hastings said bar employee Brant Hankins was advised that he could pursue charges against the person who hit him. The police report classified the incident as misdemeanor battery.

In the summer of 2006 in a fight outside another Little Rock club, McFadden severely injured his toe, but recovered in time to play in the Razorbacks' season opener.

McFadden, who also finished second in the 2006 Heisman voting, holds Arkansas' career and single-season rushing records. The junior has yet to announce whether he will forgo his senior year and enter the NFL draft.

The disturbance will be investigated by state Alcoholic Beverage Control agents once the ABC office receives the police report, said agency director Carl Kirkland. Ernie Biggs is a private club that serves alcohol but not food. State law does not allow a private club to admit anyone under 21 if the business does not serve food.

The Little Rock bar also allows smoking, and state law allows smoking in only certain establishments, but does not allow those businesses to admit anyone under 21.

Ed Barham, a spokesman for the state Health Department, which enforces the smoking ban, said the agency will look into the disturbance after hearing about it through the media. He said if it appears the club violated the law, the agency will refer the matter to the state Board of Health.

There was no response to a message left on an answering machine at the club Thursday afternoon.

Hankins said Thursday he had no comment on the incident or on McFadden's involvement.

Wallace leads Pistons past Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Rasheed Wallace had 23 points and 15 rebounds and the Detroit Pistons bounced back from a loss the previous night to beat the San Antonio Spurs 90-80 on Thursday.

Richard Hamilton scored 18 points for Detroit, and Tayshaun Prince added 17 to help the Pistons hand the Spurs their third home loss of the season and second in a row.

Tim Duncan had 24 points and 15 rebounds for San Antonio, and Tony Parker added 12 points as he struggled from the field, going 4-of-13.

Detroit snapped a two-game losing streak that followed an 11-game winning streak. The Pistons lost 102-86 in Dallas on Wednesday night.

The marquee matchup between the defending champion Spurs, currently second in the West, and the 2004 champion Pistons, second in the East, looked more like a dud for most of the night.

Not only were the Spurs having trouble creating offense, partly because they couldn't hold onto the ball and committed 15 turnovers, they weren't getting stops, either.

The Pistons had their way with San Antonio nearly every trip down the court. Whether cutting to the basket or hitting long jumpers and a couple of 3s, Detroit built its lead to as many as 20 points. The Pistons kept the lead for good after going ahead 16-15 with 3:30 left in the first quarter off of Hamilton's fast-break layup.

The Spurs were within nine with a quarter to play after closing in during the third, but Detroit built the lead back up to 14.

Lindsey Hunter's fast-break layup, before which he looked back to see that he was all alone and could slow it down on the way to the basket, gave Detroit a 78-64 lead with 6:08 to play.

Parker's 3-point play brought San Antonio within nine, and a free throw from Manu Ginobili as Antonio McDyess fouled out made it 82-74 with 2:30 to go.

But Chauncey Billups hit an easy, and key, layup off a pass from Hamilton to put Detroit up again by 10. Wallace hit another easy layup with 1:30 to go to give Detroit an 88-76 lead and put the game away. After that, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich took out most of his starters.

Detroit went on a 16-0 run over 3:30 to close the first quarter, and by the end of the period had scored twice as many points as the Spurs and were up 30-15.

The Pistons stayed ahead by the same margin by the end of the second as they held a commanding 54-39 halftime lead over the struggling Spurs, who scored consecutive baskets just once during the second quarter and were outrebounded 18-14 in the half.

By the time 2:41 was left on the clock in the third, the Spurs cut their deficit to single digits for the first time since late in the opening period after being down by as many as 20 earlier. Duncan further reduced the margin, to 63-56, with his dunk off a pass from Manu Ginobili.

Indeed it was Duncan, the only San Antonio in the double digits by the time three quarters were gone, who kept the Spurs alive. He had 10 points in the third.

By contrast, Detroit was leveling a balanced attack on the home team. Hamilton, Wallace and Prince combined for 46 points for Detroit heading into the fourth quarter, when Detroit started out with a 67-58 advantage.

Kings 116, Grizzlies 113

At Sacramento, Calif., John Salmons had 28 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists to help the Sacramento Kings rally late in the fourth quarter for a victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Down by 10 points midway through the fourth quarter, the Kings got back in the game with a 10-2 run and pulled ahead behind the clutch play of Salmons, Francisco Garcia and Brad Miller, who had 22 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

Rudy Gay scored 31 points for Memphis, which lost its second straight and has dropped 18 consecutive games in Sacramento going back to 1998 when they played in Vancouver. Pau Gasol had 19 points, Mike Miller made four 3-pointers and scored 18, Michael Conley had 15 and Juan Carlos Navarro had 10 points and six assists.

Beno Udrih scored 25 points and Garcia had 22, including a huge 3-pointer late in the game. The Kings, who won their second straight, outscored Memphis 35-28 in the fourth quarter.

Jazz 108, Suns 86

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 22 points and pulled down 17 rebounds, and Utah routed a tired and short-handed version of Phoenix.

Deron Williams added 17 points and 11 assists and Ronnie Brewer tied his career high with 21 points for the Jazz, who had an advantage from the start with three Suns starters unavailable.

Two-time league MVP Steve Nash was home with the flu, Grant Hill was recovering from an appendectomy the day before and Shawn Marion sat behind the bench with a bruised elbow. The Suns had also played an overtime game the night before and were overwhelmed by the Jazz in the second half.

Utah outscored Phoenix 28-12 in the third quarter, holding the Suns to just five field goals and closing the period with seven straight points.

Carlos Boozer added 18 points for the Jazz, but had just one rebound as Okur dominated the lane and missed his career high by one rebound.

AP

Detroit Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince, right, shoots over San Antonio Spurs center Francisco Elson, left, of the Netherlands, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008.

No penalty for Knicks' Thomas

NEW YORK (AP)—Isiah Thomas avoided an NBA suspension, even though the league said Thursday there was contact between the New York Knicks coach and the official who threw him out of a game.

The league ruled the contact wasn't initiated by Thomas, but accidentally created by official Eric Lewis while he was ejecting Thomas from Wednesday night's game against Houston.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank called it "inadvertent contact from the official in signaling the technical foul."

Thomas was tossed with 11:19 remaining in the Knicks' 101-92 loss after he came onto the floor to yell at Lewis, claiming Rockets center Yao Ming should have been called for a 3-second violation.

Though Thomas said he didn't touch the official, they clearly made contact when Lewis was issuing Thomas' first ejection of the season.

Choi takes Sony Open lead

HONOLULU (AP)—K.J. Choi is accustomed to starting strong at the Sony Open, closing with a birdie for a 6-under 64 that gave him a one-shot lead Thursday and his sixth consecutive opening round in the 60s at Waialae Country Club.

Jimmy Walker usually expects the worst when he comes to these shores.

The former Nationwide Tour player of the year suffered a serious neck injury at the Sony Open in his rookie debut three years ago. Walker returned the next year and shot 80. A reluctant return to Waialae helped erase some bad vibes, as Walker was among three players at 65 on a day of low scoring and no wind.

It was reflected on the scoreboard, with more than half of the 144-man finishing under par.

That Choi was atop the leaderboard was no surprise. He also opened with a 64 last year and wound up in a tie for fourth. It was a continuation from last week at the winners-only Mercedes-Benz Championship, where Choi was in last place until closing 69-69.

"I'm getting back to my rhythm," he said.

Heath Slocum, who teamed with Boo Weekley for a runner-up finish at the World Cup in China over Thanksgiving, and Stephen Marino joined Walker at 65. The group at 66 included Mercedes winner Daniel Chopra, Chad Campbell and Rory Sabbatini.

Tadd Fujikawa, who turned 17 on Tuesday, was headed for a short week.

One year after he became the youngest player in 50 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour, Fujikawa never recovered from a double bogey on the second hole. He didn't make birdie until No. 12 and wound up with a 74, leaving him a long shot to earn his first paycheck since turning pro last summer. This is eighth event as a pro.

"I had a rough day," Fujikawa said. "I've got to shoot a good round tomorrow to make the cut. I think I can do it. Anything is possible."

The other teenager in the field, 17-year-old amateur Alex Ching, fared slightly better with a 72. Missing from the teen brigade was Michelle Wie, who is not playing the Sony Open for the first time since 2003. That was noticeable only by a sign in the backyard of a house along the first fairway, which was changed from "Wie Why?" last year to "Wie Where?"

Marino was a rookie last year and played the first two rounds with Wie.

"It was a lot different than last year," Marino said, a reference to a quiet afternoon. "I told my caddie on the first tee, this time last year I was standing on the first tee with Michelle Wie with about 3,000 people right behind us. It was a little bit different, but it was nice."

Another change: anchor Kelly Tilghman wasn't in the booth for Golf Channel.

She began serving a two-week suspension for playful comments last week in which she said young players wanting to challenge Tiger Woods might want to "lynch him in a back alley." Rich Lerner filled in for her.

Choi also noticed a difference in the gallery. The more he wins, the more support he seems to get. It helps that Honolulu has a large Korean population, but he said winning the Memorial and the AT&T National at Congressional didn't hurt.

"The way they look at me, it's all changed for the better," Choi said.

He is giving them something to cheer.

It began with a 20-foot birdie on the opening hole, one of only five birdies on Waialae's toughest holes, and an 18-footer on the sixth. Choi also handled the par 5s, but he was most pleased with keeping bogeys off his card.

"What's meaningful is that I had a bogey-free round," he said. "My score reflected it."

Walker, who turns 29 next week, is trying to forget about his first trip to Hawaii. He was the Nationwide Tour player of the year, a rookie in the big leagues, but he never made it to the first tee. While hitting balls on the range, he felt stiffness in his back and was taken to the emergency room, where tests revealed a bulging disk in his neck.

That set the tone for a year in which he played only nine times. The following year wasn't much better, but Walker made it back to the PGA Tour by finishing 25th on the Nationwide, earning the final card.

"When I saw I was getting in, I was like, 'Oh, good. I get to go back to Hawaii.' I've got some good memories," he said, smiling wryly. "My wife stayed home; it hasn't been a great couple of trips for us. When you get in, you've got to play."

The blessing was playing well, starting with a birdie on No. 10, his first hole of a new season. He kept moving right along, using short irons from fairway and thick rough to get it close enough to make some putts, then finishing on the easy par-5 ninth with a 322-yard drive that left him a 7-iron for his second shot, and putt that put him atop the leaderboard.

Poetic justice?

"Too early for that," Walker said. "I just want to keep playing well. You'd love for the fairy-tale ending, but there's a lot of golf left. I feel good, and I hit it well, and I'm putting well. Just keep all that going, and it'll be good."

Crime Stoppers Softball on Jan. 26 and 27

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 6th Annual NMI Crime Stoppers Softball tournament will be held Jan. 26 and 27 at the Dandan Softball Field.

According to NMI Crime Stoppers chairman Jim Arenovski, the 2008 edition of the softball tournament with a cause will feature an eight-team double-elimination format.

Arenovski encouraged interested teams to sign up as soon as possible for the tournament as spots are going quickly.

"We currently have five spots that have sponsors who are looking for teams, so if you want to play, your entry fee is already paid for. This year we will also be supplying the T-shirt uniforms for sponsored teams requiring them," he said.

To sign up and secure your place in the 6th Annual NMI Crime Stoppers Softball, contact James Matsumoto at 235-6030.

Last year, Wells Fargo Financial Wranglers roped in the goods with an 11-7 win over No Zone in the tournament finale for the second year in a row. The victory marked the fourth time in five attempts that the team, also known in softball circles as No Ka Oi, outplayed its competition in the clutch.

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NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	4	.879	_
New Jersey	18	17	.514	12
Toronto	18	17	.514	12
Philadelphia	14	22	.389	16 1/2
New York	9	25	.265	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	23	14	.622	_
Washington	17	16	.515	4
Atlanta	16	16	.500	4 1/2
Charlotte	13	21	.382	8 1/2
Miami	8	28	.222	14 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	27	9	.750	_
Cleveland	18	18	.500	9
Indiana	16	21	.432	11 1/2
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	11 1/2
Chicago	13	20	.394	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	24	11	.686	_
San Antonio	23	11	.676	1/2
New Orleans	23	12	.657	1
Houston	19	17	.528	5 1/2
Memphis	10	25	.286	14

Northwest Division

Portland	22	13	.629	_
Denver	21	13	.618	1/2
Utah	20	17	.541	3
Seattle	9	26	.257	13
Minnesota	5	29	.147	16 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	25	11	.694	_
L.A. Lakers	23	11	.676	1
Golden State	20	16	.556	5
Sacramento	14	20	.412	10
L.A. Clippers	10	22	.313	13

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 90, San Antonio 80
Sacramento 116, Memphis 113
Utah 108, Phoenix 86

SONY OPEN SCORES

FIRST ROUND

K.J. Choi	32-32	64
Jimmy Walker	34-31	65
Heath Slocum	33-32	65
Steve Marino	34-31	65
Rory Sabbatini	34-32	66
Chad Campbell	32-34	66
Steve Lowery	32-34	66
James Driscoll	32-34	66
Kenneth Ferrie	33-33	66
Mitsuhiro Tateyama	34-32	66
J.P. Hayes	34-32	66
Daniel Chopra	32-34	66
Brad Adamonis	33-33	66
Jay Williamson	36-31	67
John Riegger	33-34	67
John Mallinger	35-32	67
Carl Pettersson	34-33	67
Robert Gamez	34-33	67
Kevin Na	33-34	67
Jerry Kelly	32-35	67
Chad Collins	33-34	67
Todd Demsey	32-35	67
Spencer Levin	35-32	67
Vaughn Taylor	34-33	67
Cameron Beckman	35-32	67
Zach Johnson	33-34	67
Brian Gay	35-32	67
Robert Garrigus	34-33	67
Alejandro Canizares	34-33	67
Travis Perkins	33-34	67
Doug LaBelle II	34-33	67
Ryuji Imada	33-35	68
Shigeki Maruyama	32-36	68
Dudley Hart	34-34	68
Jim Furyk	35-33	68
Brian Bateman	35-33	68
Brett Wetterich	35-33	68
Brandt Snedeker	34-34	68
Mark Calcavecchia	33-35	68
Kevin Streelman	34-34	68
Tim Wilkinson	35-33	68
Jeff Overton	35-33	68
George McNeill	35-33	68
J.B. Holmes	35-33	68
Tim Petrovic	32-36	68
Briny Baird	37-31	68
Nathan Green	33-35	68
Daisuke Maruyama	35-33	68
Dustin Johnson	34-34	68
Chez Reavie	36-32	68
Yusaku Miyazato	36-32	68
Matt Jones	35-33	68
Jason Gore	37-32	69
Bart Bryant	33-36	69
Boo Weekley	36-33	69
Charles Howell III	34-35	69
Aaron Baddeley	34-35	69
D.J. Trahan	36-33	69
Jeff Maggert	34-35	69
Bob Estes	34-35	69
Jon Mills	35-34	69
Kyle Thompson	35-34	69
Rocco Mediate	35-34	69
Sean O'Hair	34-35	69
Fred Funk	35-34	69
Troy Matteson	34-35	69
Will MacKenzie	35-34	69
Jesper Parnevik	35-34	69
Pat Perez	36-33	69
Craig Kanada	36-33	69
Roland Thatcher	35-34	69
John Merrick	35-34	69
Alex Aragon	37-32	69
Y.E. Yang	36-33	69
Jason Allred	34-35	69
Bob Sowards	33-36	69
Martin Laird	35-34	69
Kiyoshi Miyazato	35-34	69
Tom Pernice, Jr.	36-34	70
Kent Jones	36-34	70
Ted Purdy	34-36	70
Kevin Stadler	36-34	70
Angel Cabrera	34-36	70
Vijay Singh	37-33	70
Kenny Perry	35-35	70
Tom Lehman	36-34	70
Ryan Armour	36-34	70
Richard S. Johnson	36-34	70
Paul Claxton	38-32	70
Scott Sterling	36-34	70
Jin Park	35-35	70
Paul Azinger	36-34	70
Frank Lickliter II	35-35	70
Matt Kuchar	34-36	70
Stephen Ames	36-34	70
Paul Goydos	36-34	70
Olin Browne	37-33	70
Robert Allenby	34-36	70
Bubba Watson	36-34	70
Bryce Molder	36-34	70
Liang Wen-chong	35-35	70
Brian Davis	36-35	71
Patrick Sheehan	34-37	71
Billy Mayfair	39-32	71
Brenden Pappas	37-34	71
Jonathan Byrd	35-36	71
Shane Bertsch	35-36	71
Cody Freeman	38-33	71
Keiichiro Fukabori	35-36	71
Brad Elder	34-37	71
Jim McGovern	38-33	71
Steve Stricker	38-33	71
Dean Wilson	35-36	71
Nicholas Thompson	36-35	71
Omar Uresti	38-34	72
John Daly	35-37	72
Steve Flesch	37-35	72
Alex Ching	35-37	72
Jonathan Kaye	39-33	72
Carlos Franco	36-36	72
Mark Wilson	35-37	72
Eric Axley	36-36	72
John Senden	36-36	72
Bo Van Pelt	37-35	72
John Huston	36-37	73
Jeff Sluman	36-37	73
Ron Whittaker	37-36	73
Justin Bolli	37-36	73
Parker McLachlin	34-39	73
Jason Day	37-36	73
Nick Flanagan	38-35	73
Jeff Quinney	40-33	73
Peter Lonard	36-37	73
Marc Turnesa	39-34	73
Tommy Gainey	38-35	73
Tag Ridings	37-37	74
David Lutterus	38-36	74
Tadd Fujikawa	40-34	74
Tom Scherrer	38-36	74
Shaun Micheel	38-36	74
Bill Haas	35-39	74
Michael Letzig	39-35	74
Kaname Yokoo	38-37	75
Kevin Hayashi	44-37	81

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI CUP STANDINGS

Aqua Resort	3	0
APHI	2	1
PIC	1	1
Hyatt	1	1
Hafadai	1	2
World Resort	1	2
Aquarius	0	2

26 BOWLERS

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PBA Bowler of the Year and the July and September rolls off of the monthly King of the Lanes of SBA.

It was during the September King of the Lanes, last Sept. 23 and 24, that Talavera rolled perfect games in back-to-back nights.

Richard Leong was second in the BRS, 285 pins short of Talavera's total with his 1,290 points. The lefty sales manager of Multiline Supply won the February roll-off of SBA and was also champion of the annual PBA classified tournament last August. He also took home the high average award of the Saturday Night League.

Raymond Zapanta took third with 1,144 points. The youth kegler finished first in the August and October King of the Lanes aside from topping the high average awards of the Thursday and Friday night leagues of the Capital Bowling Center.

Talavera's older brother Edgar ranked fourth with 1,129 points with Alex Cacdac completing the Top 5 with 1,125 points.

Edgar narrowly beat Robert in the May Masters Tournament of the Philippine Bowling Association and was the high average winner of the SBC Friday Night League, while Cacdac's claim to fame in 2007 was winning the March King of the Lanes as well as finishing strong in other tournaments last year.

December King of the Lanes runner-up Kitz Barja, meanwhile, moved up to sixth place after dislodging Raymond Angeles who fell to seventh. Barja came away with 1,095 points as against Angeles' 1,075.

Barja was the April King of the Lanes and CBC Friday Night League high average winner, while Angeles was May King of the Lanes champion.

Eighth to 10th places were secured by December King of the Lanes Jonathan Eparwa, January King of the Lanes Raul Dumapit and June King of the Lanes Simon Manacop.

The final two members of the Top 12 in the men's BRS are Paul Pangelinan and Lito Teodoro. Pangelinan came away with 812 points, while Teodoro had 691 points for the entire 2007 season.

The Top 12 plus the 14 bowlers will see action in a nine-game roll-off tomorrow. The nine-game roll-off will determine the top six bowlers who will advance to the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will feature the No. 3 and No. 6 bowlers facing off, and the No. 4 and No. 5 bowlers battling. The winner of the No. 3-No. 6 contest will then face the No. 1 bowler, while the No. 2 seed will face the winner of the No. 4-No. 5 bout in the semifinals.

The two survivors will then battle for all the marbles in the final game. If the No. 1 bowler falters in the semis, the bowler will automatically place third. If the No. 1 bowler succeeds, the two that falter in the semis will play for third and fourth.

Registration promptly starts at 1pm with competition to start at 1:30pm.

Last Sunday, Diane Camacho and Jamie Vales were crowned Queen and Princess of the Lanes, respectively, after defeating separate opponents at the CBC.

For more information about tomorrow's 2007 King of the Lanes, email Ross Zapanta at zapanta@pticom.com or sba-saipan@yahoo.com.

Last year, youth bowler Raymond Angeles gave himself a nice 18th birthday gift by upsetting 2006 BRS No. 1 Robert Talavera in the stepladder finals, 211-205, to claim 2006 King of the Lanes.

FIND

From Page 28

And the Boss of Everything Football doesn't need to be famous, just exceedingly good at evaluating players, coaches, scouts, and dealing with the salary cap. Bill Polian was a great executive who then became famous. All he did was hire the people that landed Buffalo, Carolina and Indianapolis in the Super Bowl. So instead of trying to find the next great coach, find the guy who knows how to find or at least develop great coaches. You and I don't have to know his name, but there are smart people who do this all over the league. The trick is to find one of them.

It could be somebody the Redskins actually already know, such as Bobby DePaul, a P.G. County kid made real good first as a scout (some of that working for the Redskins) and then as an assistant Boss of Everything Football with the Chicago Bears, whowent to the Super Bowl last year. DePaul knows who can play, who can coach, who can scout, and who can't. You think Scott Pioli and Bill Belichick don't have some assistant Boss of Everything Football types who know what they're doing up in New England? Maybe the apprenticeship should be over.

Remember former quarterback James Harris, an assistant to Ozzie Newsome in Baltimore? Well, he went to Jacksonville to run that football operation and how's that working out at the moment? You would want what the Jaguars have? Then hire the guy who helped put it together. You see what Cleveland has done in short order? That's in large part because the Browns hired Phil Savage, another guy who cut his teeth in the Ravens' system. Maybe George Kokinis, the Ravens' director of pro personnel, is a great executive just waiting for a team to hire him. If you think it's in the genes, then maybe it's time to spend some money to lure Chris Polian, the vice president of football operations for the Colts, away from his old man.

These are people with vision greater than just figuring out what Celebrity Coach to hire and they're all over the league, which is how bad teams become better, then good and finally great. They look at personnel (starting, perhaps in the Redskins' case, with the young quarterback) and have at the ready a list of people who would be best suited to cultivate that talent. They know what young, workaholic assistants are innovative and great at teaching and ready to promote. They won't wind up with 20 assistants and three or four guys involved in calling the plays on game days.

Might the best candidate be, say Gregg Williams? Certainly he might be. But I'd want somebody overseeing the whole outfit helping me (the owner) put together the pieces. And please don't tell me this is a shot at Vinny Cerrato because that hasn't been his role, to be the Boss of Everything Football. While people love taking shots at Cerrato, the Redskins would have been much better off in quite a few cases had they listened to his advice.

I've been lucky in my life as a sportswriter to have been around two of the great football coaches in history: Joe Gibbs and Bobby Ross.

It's hard to imagine now, after Gibbs' three Super Bowl championships and a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but when Bobby Beathard said he was hiring Gibbs to coach the Redskins, everybody in town thought, "Beathard's hiring who? We never heard of this guy." And when Dick Dull, the director of athletics at the University of Maryland at the time, hired Ross, who'd been at The Citadel and coached special teams for the Kansas City Chiefs, we similarly said, "Who? Wasn't he going to hire Dick Nolan?"

All Ross did was win a share of the national championship at Georgia Tech and get the Chargers to the Super Bowl. And when he got to the news conference in College Park, he had to introduce himself so that people would know who he was. It's been 27 years or so since those two men were first hired to fill high-profile jobs, though they had zero profiles themselves. And it can still work that way. But it involves restraint from chasing the biggest star out there and first finding the football man who realizes a thorough and productive search doesn't mean conducting a star search.

Do I suspect the Redskins will break with a recent path that has produced a lot of interest and drama but not much in the way of postseason success?

AQUA

From Page 28

backcourt mate Dennis Vinas who took home the MVP plum with his 15 points (all in the first half), seven rebounds, six assists, three steals, and a shot block.

Come-backing Rick Brien paced the snake-bitten Aquarius crew with 13 points, five rebounds, and three assists.

First Game

Saipan World Resort 96 – Mangahis 23, Wabinga 18, Vinas 15, Navarro 12, Ramos 10, Hamoy 8, Ledon 4,

Aquarius Beach Tower 39 – Brien 13, Achas 7, Garcia 5, Alvarez 4, Trajano 4, Sese 2, Camacho 2, Cordero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-13, 54-23, 74-27, 96-39.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

Aqua Resort Club 78 – Dalangin 21, Barbo 16, Johannes 13, Achas 9, Alegre 8, Aquino 7, Gapor 4.

Pacific Islands Club 74 – Tudela 16, Kaipat 16, Abuy 14, Pambid 11, Tolentino 9, Swain 3, Pungilug 2, Fernandez 2, Lee 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 40-32, 54-58, 78-74.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Eric Artillaga.

Owens practices for Cowboys

Terrell Owens ran routes and caught passes in his return to practice Thursday, showing only a slight limp at times.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wallace leads Pistons past Spurs

Rasheed Wallace had 23 points and 15 rebounds and the Detroit Pistons bounced back from a loss the previous night to beat the San Antonio Spurs 90-80 on Thursday.

26

Aqua Resort survives, World Resort wins

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Defending champion Aqua Resort Club escaped by the skin of its teeth a gallant stand by dark horse Pacific Islands Club in the rare Thursday game of the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Achugao property held on to the 78-74 win in the second game of the doubleheader when PIC's Butch Kaipat lost possession of the ball with his team down by two points with just 15 second left in the game.

Aqua Resort scored on the succeeding possession and time ran out for PIC, which suffered its fist loss in two games, while allowing their opponents to maintain their pristine 3-0 record.

It was a low-scoring ballgame from the get-go with Aqua Resort getting a jump on the San Antonio hotel to take a 19-8 lead after the first quarter.

PIC gave a bit more effort come the second quarter and piled up the points, but still trailed 32-40 at halftime.

Aqua Resort was in trouble in the third as the Mutt & Jeff combination of Richard Pambid and Raymond Tolentino spearheaded an uprising that gave PIC the lead, 58-54, heading into fourth and final quarter.

It was an all-out war in the payoff period, as both teams gave it their best shots. Former Rotary rivals Ziddy Johannes (Tanapag Warriors) of Aqua Resort and Derrick Tudela (Ol'Aces) of PIC scored eight points apiece in the final 10 minutes.

With the game in the balance, Aqua Resort made all the right plays and were gifted with the lost possession by Kaipat to eke out the victory.

Aqua Resort swingman Eric Dalanginin was adjudged MVP of the game with his all-around performance that netted him 21 points, nine rebounds, and four steals. He was supported by the 16 of forward Darwin Barbo and 13 of Johannes.

Playmaker extraordinaire Rick Alegre also logged in eight points, six assists, five rebounds, and three steals in the win.

Kaipat and Tudela paced PIC in the loss with 16 points apiece. The duo also combined for 15 boards, six steals, and the same number of assists.

In the first game, Saipan World Resort ran roughshod over an Aquarius Beach Tower squad that lost leading scorer Jeff Garcia to injury in the second quarter, 96-39.

Saipan World Resort's Jerrfel Mangahis led all scorers with 23 points on top of six assists and three steals, but it was

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MARK RABAGO
Saipan World resort point guard Dennis Vinas goes up for a layup in their game against Aquarius Beach Tower in the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

26 bowlers to vie for 2007 King of the Lanes

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Raymond Angeles won last year's King of the Lanes after upsetting the islands' No. 1 bowler Robert Talavera in the finals.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The top dozen male bowlers in the Saipan Bowling Association's Bowling Ranking System along with 14 of the Top 36 will vie for the 2007 King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament set for tomorrow at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

According to SBA official Gigi Zapanta, the organization did not hold a roll-off among bowlers 13th to 36th place after only 14 of them showed up for the competition last Sunday.

As it stands, the 14 will now battle tried-and-tested keglers that finished in the Top 12 led by four-time perfect gamer Robert Talavera.

The native of Minalin, Pampanga in the Philippines finished with a total of 1,575 points to top the 2007 BRS.

The Saipan Bowling Association lanes supervisor won the

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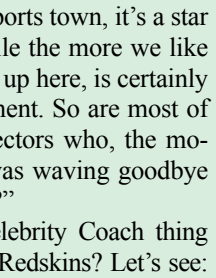
By MICHAEL WILBON
The Washington Post



Find a talent spotter—and keep him

You knew the moment Joe Gibbs got in his car to drive away from Redskins Park after his news conference Tuesday that Bill Cowher's name would be on the lips of pretty much everybody in metropolitan Washington. After all, the Redskins don't do low-profile coaches, do they? In Dan Snyder's tenure as owner, he has hired three coaches—Marty Schottenheimer, Steve Spurrier and Joe Gibbs—all of them mega-celebrities, each one more accomplished than the other. It kind of fits, really. Washington isn't a sports town, it's a star town, the bigger the profile the more we like it. And Snyder, who grew up here, is certainly a product of his environment. So are most of the editors and news directors who, the moment they heard Gibbs was waving goodbye asked, "Where's Cowher?"

Well, how has that Celebrity Coach thing worked out so far for the Redskins? Let's see: no trips to the Super Bowl, no trips to the conference championship game. The Giants have been to the Super Bowl this decade. The Eagles have been to the Super Bowl this decade. The Cowboys, as the No. 1 seed in the NFC in these playoffs, are favored to go to the Super Bowl this year. That's all of the NFC East ... except the Redskins. Apparently the Celebrity Coach model ain't what it's cracked up to be.

This isn't going to be a rant, just a restatement of something that ought to be as obvious to every owner in the NFL as it is to me. The Redskins need a football person running the football operation. OK, some coaches may have more say than others. But this notion that a coach should have most of the say regarding personnel is obviously flawed. When Mike Holmgren works exclusively as head coach, he's gotten to the Super Bowl twice. As head coach and Boss of Everything Football, he was about to be fired until he relinquished his general manager duties and made another Super Bowl.

Miami, wallowing in the muck for years now, has finally hired Bill Parcells to be Boss of Everything Football and he's wisely hired an assistant who'll help decide whom the Dolphins hire as head coach. If Arthur Blank makes Pete Carroll his coach and Boss of Everything Football in Atlanta, I don't know who will have made the bigger mistake, Blank or Carroll.

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